Our first P&C meeting of the year witnessed a change of governance with Fiona taking on the duties of President, Dina as Vice President, Jonette as Secretary and Susan continuing as Treasurer. I heartily congratulate these folk for their undertaking and wish them every success in their efforts in working to make our school the best it can be. May I also sincerely thank Jenny De and Angelique as outgoing executives as the work undertaken by both has been wholehearted, consummate, loyal, dedicated and indeed second to none? One can only hope that what you have ‘put in’ has been rewarded in what you have received in return. Terrific models for our students to emulate.

At our meeting I was also able to detail to some extent the extra funding arrangements in Queensland schools this year. Having briefly mentioning this element in the last newsletter I indicated that our slice of the $131 million would be just over $12 000. Seems to pale into insignificance but indeed from a historical perspective it’s quite unprecedented both in amount and comparative to annual core grant funding. Calculated on our numbers in our P-2 group, with other loadings we will target identified students to work in a robust manner as well as purchase resources which will be used across the whole school. This package is part of $800 million over a number of years although the real unknown is what presents next year and how dependent it may be on results of this year. In the words of our new Regional Director, ‘the charter of expectations hasn’t changed but it won’t be business as usual’. How insightful!

Our representatives at the District Swimming Carnival last Friday couldn’t have performed more pleasingly considering circumstances. Whilst the timing falls outside our program the efforts demonstrated on the night were first class for every rep. Any LTSS team which leaves our gates is briefed as to expectations with indicators for success. Foremost is to have fun, learn more about the sport/event, be supportive, demonstrate sportsmanship, meet new people, develop team skills, advance personal skills, be the best that one can be and respect officials to name a few. The w word doesn’t get mentioned but the underlining rationale is that should the forementioned be achieved, positive results will follow. Special congratulations need to be bestowed on Jeremiah Seckington, who through a torrid program was rewarded with District Age Champion. Very well done.

In conclusion I can’t help but mention two media presentations recently encountered. The first was sent to me by a past parent who thought I might find ABC radio Richard Fidler’s Conversation Hour’s session interesting. [http://www.abc.net.au/local/stories/2014/01/30/3934902.htm](http://www.abc.net.au/local/stories/2014/01/30/3934902.htm) is the link to a fascinating and thought provoking dissertation. Initially I had to work myself into a mindset to accommodate the blurb which preceded it but was so glad I did. The end piece is the best if you can’t last the distance! Additionally the ABC TV series “Kids on Speed” was for me compulsive viewing. I believe all parents could take something from the experiences of these families who are operating under the most trying circumstances. If you missed it try ‘Iview’, not that I understand the technological logistics of access as I believe it will be most worthwhile.

Until Next time.

P&C President: Fiona Bonassi
**LUNCHES ~ KEEP THEM HEALTHY PLEASE**

Unfortunately some of the lunch boxes that are coming to school are crammed full with food which is high in sugar, low in fibre and are best left at home. Some lunch boxes have been seen to contain many packets of chips!

Items which should be included in the lunch box include: **vegetable sticks, fresh fruit, cheese or yoghurt, lean meat, hard-boiled egg or beans, bread, pita or flat bread or crackers, sandwiches.**

Chips (high in salt) chocolate and muesli bars are expensive and stuck together with fats and sugar.

Water is the best option for a drink as many of the sweet drinks such as fruit juice, cordials, sports drinks and softdrinks are not necessary and increase the risk of tooth decay.

It is important to keep offering healthy lunch box choices in a variety of ways, so children learn to eat what is good and unfamiliar to them.

Healthy eating and drinking is an important part of looking after our health and reducing the risks of future health problems. Healthy lunches and snacks are important for active children and help with concentration and learning.

Healthy food = Healthy mind = Healthy body.

**$SPELLING MASTERY$$**

Thankyou to the parents who have promptly paid for the Spelling Mastery textbooks for their child/ren. Just a reminder the cost is

- Level A $22.00
- Level B,C,D,E $27.00

Payment can be made or sent to the school office.

**CONTACT NOS. & DETAILS**

Could I please urge you to return the contact details notice which was sent home last week. The note was for you to complete phone, mobile phone and email contacts. Could you also include an emergency contact as well. This information is most valuable particularly this time of year when the weather and road conditions can change quickly and without much notice.

**CHANGES and ABSENCES**

Could I please reiterate that if your child has a change of pick-up, drop-off or destination, PLEASE notify the school.

Unfortunately in this day and age we can longer be of the trusting nature that we have been accustomed to in the past. A quick phone call or note will suffice for the notification.

Also school absences have to be recorded. Once again a note or phone call would be appreciated. If there is no notice, the absence will be entered as UNEXPLAINED and this is then picked up by the Department and parents will be contacted.
NEWS FROM THE YRS 3-4 CLASSROOM

The children in Year 3-4 have been working hard to improve their independent work habits of late, and to self-regulate their attention and focus. While we still have a way to go, there has been a significant improvement in each child’s ability to maintain their focus and read questions properly by themselves, instead of asking what to do in the first instance, before trying on their own. Such mature work habits are wonderful to see…

Our main focuses in maths at the moment are place value and telling the time, and it is the latter that is proving confusing to many children. In order to assist your child, it would be great if you could refer to the clock in your house or their room at various times throughout the day, to discuss the location of the hands and the time at that moment, the difference between am and pm time, and how many minutes or hours between different times of the day.

Along with our Friday spelling test, the children were also tested on some grammatical functions today that we’ve been focusing on over the last few weeks, namely quotation marks and the use of apostrophes in contractions. As always, if you’d like to know how your child performed in these tests, please feel free to pop in and have a look at their papers.

Lastly, the homework that the children bring home each night is usually an extension of what they have been learning that day, or something that needs to be revised, and is a very good indicator to you, the parents and carers, of what we have been doing in class. Please don’t hesitate to get involved, provide assistance or extend their understanding further, and get in touch if you have any concerns.

Have a great weekend!

Julie Musumeci
Year 3-4 Teacher

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Tully Heads Tavern Raffle: Attached to this newsletter is a roster which indicates dates for our raffles which are held on the 1st Saturday of every month. A reminder that this is one of the major fundraisers for our school and only requires a small amount of your time. If you could please place your name/s in one of the dates then the roster can be finalised and returned to you. As an extra incentive from the Tavern, they will do U12 kids eat free..

Please support your school with this fundraiser—the more names on the roster the better. Newies can ask to be put on with experienced sellers if they wish.
GOSS FROM PREP ~ YR 2

Have you ever felt that there are never enough hours in a day? That’s what it feels like on a constant basis here. The students in junior class have been busy learning about feelings and emotions in story books which will then lead onto persuasive writing for the next 5 weeks.

Each day the students have been observing the lifecycle of darkling beetles all part of their science lessons. Watching, recording and describing how they change from pupae to beetles all assists with students vocabulary and observations.

In mathematics the preps have been learning about number recognition and sorting objects by colour, size, etc. Year 1’s and 2’s are continuing to learn about place value using hundreds, tens and ones. If you get a spare 5 minutes, can I ask if you could write down some 2 and 3 digit addition problems for your child to complete…. …practise makes perfect!

It is always so nice to hear when a relief teacher says that they have had a great day. Thanks preps, ones and two’s for being so well behaved for Mr Morrison.

Have a great weekend.

Rachelle Salleras 😊

DIARY DATES:

- **Mon 24 Feb**: Visit to the school from Dept of Environment & Heritage to talk about wildlife safety particularly around crocodiles and cassowaries.
- **03-04 March**: 6 students from Snr classroom to Daradgee EEC Leadership Camp.
- **Fri 07 March**: Netball Carnival, Rugby League Carnival and Basketball Trials.
- **Wed 12 March**: P&C Meeting