PRINCIPAL PENS:

What an exciting time to be a part of state schooling in Queensland! As part of the government's 'Investing 4 Success' initiative, we have been able to secure the appointment of two additional teachers, for one day each per week, to work specifically on targeted intervention with selected children, to ensure that those at risk of 'falling through the gaps' are given the extra support they need to flourish. Our aim is for these two teachers to begin in Term 2. The opportunity that such a situation presents is truly exciting.

We have been busy planning with our cluster schools, what we hope will be the first of many Literary Festivals which will be taking place on Tuesday 22nd March - the last week of Term 1. We have managed to secure visits from some fantastic authors who will be traveling from far and wide, all the way to Far North Queensland to join our children in classrooms and share their knowledge and experiences of writing. Paul Collins will be visiting Lower Tully SS and working with our Year 5 and 6 students, along with those from Feluga and El Arish. Our Year 2, 3 and 4 students will be traveling to Feluga SS to work alongside their peers from Feluga and El Arish with author Aleesah Darlison. Our children have been busy reading and engaging with a range of books written by each of these authors in preparation for their visits. Notes will be sent home in the coming weeks with further details.

In addition to this, our school has committed to participate in the second phase of a pilot study we partook in last year based on adapting our teaching practices to incorporate more Age-Appropriate Pedagogies. Research being conducted globally indicates that children entering early education over recent years have not been coping particularly well with the current expected teaching strategies, evidenced by some 700 odd children being suspended from Prep in Queensland in one year alone due to an inability to cope with the rigid lesson format and lack of the movement, imagination, agency and creativity that young children need in order to thrive.

An education research team from Griffith University has teamed up with the Department of Education in Queensland, and together they have selected specific Queensland state schools to adopt Age-Appropriate Pedagogies and assist with their research. It has always been our strong belief at LTSS that children can only learn if they feel safe, comfortable and happy in their school setting, have their individual strengths celebrated and nurtured, and are offered a variety of ways to access the curriculum to suit their individual learning needs. Without effective relationships and sufficient care and attention paid towards the social and emotional wellbeing of the child, as well as an in depth knowledge of where the children's interests and capabilities lie in order to foster a love of learning from the very beginning, we have little chance of making the desired changes to their academic development. As the saying goes, if you don't touch the heart, you cannot expect to touch the mind.

Throughout Phase 1 of the pilot, we witnessed significantly increased student engagement which led to higher achievement, deeper understandings and better attendance, to name but a few advantages. Our goal for Phase 2 is to extend the roll out of Age-Appropriate Pedagogies to year levels beyond the Prep/Year 1 cohort. The alignment of our school ethos with the agenda presented by the Griffith/EQ team is a great match, and little old LTSS is very privileged to be part of such a visionary project which has the power to change the face of education in Australia for the better, with the outright winners being our children. Exciting times indeed! Stay tuned...

Have a great week,

Julie Musumeci
EASTER RAFFLE DONATIONS

Yes, the Easter Bunny is just around the corner and again the P & C will be running a raffle which generates great interest and adds tremendously to the Easter spirit.

A donation of Easter goodies from each school family helps to compile a significant number of prizes. A book of tickets is attached and the drawing takes place on Wed 23 March during Assembly.

If you are unable to purchase Easter items, you may want to forward an amount of money which would be put towards purchasing eggs or chocolates.

Please start sending in your donations to the school office. THANKYOU.

ELECTION DAY CAKE STALL

SAT 19 MARCH

8:00am—12:00noon(or when sold-out)

As in the past, we provide an excellent cake stall for all our voters and visitors throughout the morning. We are once again calling upon our families to help out with this fundraiser. Please supply cakes, slices, biscuits, plants, vegies or whatever you have to offer suitable for the stall. There are foam trays available from the school for you to display your cooking. Help will also be required during the morning with setting-up and sales. Please put your hand up to assist in some small way …..it is always very much appreciated.

ELECTION DAY CAKE STALL

SAT 19 MARCH

8:00am—12:00noon(or when sold-out)

As in the past, we provide an excellent cake stall for all our voters and visitors throughout the morning. We are once again calling upon our families to help out with this fundraiser. Please supply cakes, slices, biscuits, plants, vegies or whatever you have to offer suitable for the stall. There are foam trays available from the school for you to display your cooking. Help will also be required during the morning with setting-up and sales. Please put your hand up to assist in some small way …..it is always very much appreciated.

DIARY DATES

WED 09 P&C Meet 3:30pm
TUES 15 Last day for After School swimming
SAT 19 Election Day Cake Stall
TUE 22 Tully Cluster Literary Festival
WED 23 Drawing of Easter Raffle
THURS 24 District Touch Footy Carnival 9-12yrs at Tully Showgrounds.
THURS 24 END OF SCHOOL TERM
2 WEEK VACATION
School resumes
MONDAY 11 APRIL
5/6 Class

We must start by saying a BIG THANK-YOU for supporting our chicken adventure. We are well on the way to purchasing the chickens and required items for continued maintenance. We will continue for the remainder of the year selling ice-blocks for 50c on Fridays.

Special thanks must be extended to: Gardiner, McCarthy and deZwaan families who have boosted the takings with generous donations towards the chicken venture. Our school is truly blessed with community spirit.

It’s a great time to talk with your child with the upcoming elections, and about the election procedure. We are studying democracy throughout the year in Civics and Citizenship. It’s great for them to have this real life link into our community and Australia.

We have been focussing on leadership skills, where the students have improved greatly. They are taking on extra jobs around the school, displaying positive attitudes to others and helping out. Being Respectful is our goal for the next few weeks. We are focussing on treating others the way we would like to be treated. For example saying hello, opening the door and other simple gestures that reflect the true spirit of LTSS.

Angela Loudon

---

**School Uniform Policy**

The need has arisen to clarify our school’s uniform policy. Our school’s uniform policy was implemented in order to promote an effective teaching and learning environment by eliminating the distraction of competition in dress and fashion at school, and to foster mutual respect among individuals at school by minimising visible evidence of economic, class and social differences.

Can we please remind students and their families that jewellery is to be limited to sleepers or studs for earrings, and a signet ring or watch are optional. Any form of make-up or nail varnish is to remain as an out-of-school extra due to the fact that these items have proven time and again to distract children from their first priority which is learning.
YRS 2, 3 & 4

Here we are at the beginning of week 7! The children in 2/3/4 have been working so hard and having so much fun we have hardly noticed the weeks flying by. We have all settled well into our maths and literacy rotations now, and we are making good use of our learning time together by focusing on our tasks and having a go – even when we are finding our work a challenge.

In the last two weeks we have watched some videos, starring Mojo – our favourite Class Dojo monster – that explain the importance of ‘always having a go’ or PER-SISTING when our work becomes challenging. You can watch these videos with your children too if you like, just search for class dojo on YouTube. The first video is called, ‘A Secret About The Brain.’

Some of us had success in Science, germinating bean seeds to show the changes that occur as living things grow. Below are a couple of photos of some 2/3/4 children with their beans.

In Civics & Citizenship we have been learning why we have rules. Yesterday, we used a method called a ‘Yarning Circle’ to make group decisions. We realised it can take a long time sometimes for everyone to agree.

Lastly, our whole class is getting very excited that we will be meeting a ‘real-live’ author at the end of this term, Aleesah Darlison. We have been reading heaps of her stories and books in class. We are reading an adventure about a girl called Quinn that is very good at solving riddles at the moment. Soon we are going to write our own story to show Aleesah when she comes to FNQ.

Have an awesome week,

Belinda Adams.