PRINCIPAL’S NEWS

School Attendance

Our School Attendance Target is 96%. Our current Attendance is 93%

Did you know? Research shows that higher student attendance at school generally means higher student achievement.

Regular school attendance will mean that your child has a better chance in life:

- They learn better
- They make friends
- They are happier
- They have a brighter future.

Under Queensland law, you must make sure your child of school age is enrolled and attends school all day, every day, unless they have an acceptable reason. Avoid keeping your child away from school for: birthdays, shopping, visiting family and friends or if they sleep in.

If your family holiday is during school time, let us know in advance so that we can talk about arrangements for your child. They may be eligible for an exemption for this period.

Do I need to let the school know if my child has been away from school? Yes, you must let us know the reason why your child has been absent from school. We do like to know on the day of their absence if possible, or on their return. Please call us to let us know. Reasons for being absent from school can include: illness, representing the school (or district/region/state) in a choir or sporting team, extreme weather events, Sorry Business, dental appointments, religious observances, funerals and legal matters.

The students in our school have a large percentage of students with unexplained absences. I am working with the Region to tidy up this information, so over the coming days and weeks, somebody may send a letter home or call you to add an explanation to your child’s absence. This is simply to ensure our information is up to date. We would love it if you could help us update it by calling 3381 4111, emailing absent@redbankss.eq.edu.au or by sending a note.

We are trying really hard at the moment to improve our student attendance. You may hear your child talk about the ‘attendance trophy’. This is an award that will be presented to the class with the highest attendance rate each week. The students are really excited about it! Well done 2TC for winning the class attendance trophy with 97.144% attendance!

Our focus is on the child as an individual and setting a goal of coming to school each and every day. If you are having trouble getting your child to school, please contact either your child’s teacher or myself so that we can help you.

Student Leaders

Last week, our Year 6 students had the opportunity to demonstrate the depth of their leadership skills and convince their peers and staff that they will uphold our 3 values of Safe, Responsible and Respectful.

I would like to congratulate the following students in their leadership positions for 2016:

School Captains: Darius M and Eve S

School Vice-Captains: Benny C and Malele F

Darius, Eve, Benny and Malele will represent our school at important events and lead our weekly Parade.

This week our nominees for House Captains will present their speeches and voting will be held. I look forward to announcing those leaders in the next newsletter.

Parent / Teacher Interviews

The opportunity for you to meet with your child’s teacher will be available early in Term 2. A letter will come home inviting you to nominate a day and time that suits. We encourage parents to take advantage of this time to share information about your child.

Cheers,
Craig Pearen
Principal
Strive is our oral vocabulary program. Each week the teachers select special words from the class work. They teach the meaning in a clear and focused lesson with follow up lessons during the week. When the class has completed the word they go onto the STRIVE wall.

Redbank Raptors
Each room in our school has a set of posters to remind the students of our behaviour expectations. The students will be learning about being safe, responsible and respectful by choosing their behaviour. The behaviour lesson that the students will be focussing on for week 6 and 7 is: We are respectful to adults. The core behaviours taught in this lesson are honesty, respect, responsibility, fairness, citizenship and compassion/forgiveness.

Being respectful means:
- having regard for feelings, wishes or rights of others
- that you act in a way that shows you care about others’ feelings and wellbeing
- treating people with courtesy

It is important to be respectful at all times for the good order and management of the school.

*Redbank Raptors are safe, responsible and respectful learners when we are respectful to adults.*

These students were selected to pick from the prize box for being excellent Redbank Raptor Role Models:

Munch N Crunch Program:
Thank you to our current helpers. We need volunteers for Tuesdays and Fridays to help cut up the fruit and vegetables each morning from about 8:30 – 9 am in the kitchen. Come in and offer your help, even if it is only one morning a week, any help would be greatly appreciated!

Uniform Shop: Open on Mondays and Wednesdays between 8 – 9am. Shorts and skorts $18, polo shirts $30, bucket hats $10. Our new stock has arrived; please come in and see Ann for all your uniform needs.

Easter Raffle: We are asking for donations of any non-perishable items to create the Easter hampers for the raffle, are you able to help by donating? Please send items to the office. The raffle will be a multi draw raffle with many prizes available. Tickets are attached to this newsletter, tickets are 50 c each. The raffle will be drawn on 23 March.

Easter Stall: We will hold an Easter stall on Wed 16 and Thurs 17 March with gifts from 50c to $5.00 available for purchase. The tables will be set up under the Admin Block near the junior play area from 8:15 – 8:45 am on both days. There will be many types of gifts available for the children to purchase, including traditional Easter gifts.

Parade Awards
Congratulations to the following students who received awards on parade recently:
Leadership Speeches

We are very proud of the students who participated in the leadership speeches for school captain positions. Congratulations to the four successful students.

Science on Thursdays

Several students interested in Science were invited to attend special Science sessions on Thursdays with Peter our visiting Scientist. These sessions start this week. Thank you to all the parents of children who received letters for promptly signing and returning the forms. We hope to update you every fortnight.

CRAZY HAT PARADE

Parents and Caregivers are invited to attend our Crazy Hat Parade on Wednesday 23 March at 9am in the COLA. If the classes are participating in the parade, all hats will be made at school by the students. Some classes will perform an item such as a song or dance. The parade will start with the Preps and follow on with the other year levels. At the end of the march, students in years prep – 3 will have a treasure hunt. Student leaders will hide STAR tokens in the grounds for children to find. Each child will need to find 4 different coloured stars, GOLD, BLUE, PURPLE and RED. Students then take their stars to their teacher for a reward.

LIBRARY NEWS

We currently have a significant amount of overdue library books; please remember to bring your library books back each week. If you are unable to find your missing book, we ask that you pay $10 towards the replacement of that book. This amount does not cover the total cost as most junior fiction picture books range from $25 to $35, fiction novels range from $15 to $20 and non-fiction books range from $20 to $40. Losing books each week impacts on our valuable collection and by the end of the year, this can make a huge difference to our collection. We appreciate your support in this matter.

Remember to bring your library books for borrowing day!
Thursday – PJM, 6TK, 5RH.
Friday – 5/6AW, 3JM, 2TC, 1/2KG, 3/4LH, 1KT, 4HM.

CROSS COUNTRY

Our school cross country will be held on Thursday 24 March starting at 9am, weather permitting. All students from Prep to year 6 participate. We encourage our students and staff to wear house colours on the day, Kallaroo is green and Bindaree is red. Check with your teacher if you do not know what house you are in. Students will be practicing the course during P.E. lessons and any practice that you do at home is great! Parents and caregivers are most welcome to attend on this day.

4HM Buddy Class with 1KT

Buddies are enjoying sharing a book with each other on Friday mornings. The Year 1 buddies are engaged with a narrative book each week. The Year 4’s ask their Buddies what happened in the beginning, middle and the end of the story. From the photo, the children seem to be enjoying the sessions!

Katrina Turner & Heather Mansfield

GARDENING CLUB

Weeds, weeds, weeds! If only everything we planted grew as well. With the help of Mrs Skidmore and Mrs Smith and the keen gardeners, we are making an impact on the weed production. Today, the little gardeners planted cauliflower and tomato seeds in the seedling pots that Ms Helena Martin gave us. Thank you, Helena. Last week we planted cucumbers and peas, but unfortunately lost most of the peas and a few of the cucumbers due to the heat. The cucumbers that survived look very healthy.

OUR CLUBS

Each week the students can participate in a number of clubs. Our clubs include:
Each morning: Breakfast Club 8:00 – 8:30 am.
Tuesday morning: Gardening Club from 7:30 to 8:30 am for years 1 – 6.
Glee Club: Each Wednesday at second break, 1:00 to 1:30 pm in 3JM room.
Children from Prep to 6 are able to attend.
Wednesday afternoon: Homework Club from 2:45 – 3:30 for years P - 6.

Student Absences

It is an Education Queensland expectation to inform the school if your child is going to be away. Please phone the office on 3381 4111.

1. Leave your child’s name and class
2. Reason for their absence
3. Expected duration – how long?
4. Contact number
5. Or send an email to absent@redbankss.eq.edu.au

If your child is absent for longer than three days, please provide a doctor’s certificate or note to your class teacher.

SCHOOL CALENDAR

Our calendar will be updated in each newsletter to let you know of upcoming events.

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Wed 16 &amp; Thurs 17 March</td>
<td>Easter Stall 8am – 8:45 am</td>
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<tr>
<td>Monday 21 March</td>
<td>Annual General Meeting for P &amp; C</td>
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<td>Wed 23 March</td>
<td>Crazy Hat Parade</td>
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<td>Thursday 24 March</td>
<td>Cross Country</td>
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<td>Thursday 24 March</td>
<td>Last day of Term 1</td>
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<td>Friday 25 March</td>
<td>Good Friday Public Holiday</td>
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<td>Monday 11 April</td>
<td>First day of Term 2</td>
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These advertisers support us, please support them.