From the Principal’s Desk

PARENT SURVEY

On Monday, I sent home a parent survey asking families to complete a ‘traffic light’ survey where families were asked to answer 3 questions. The information you provide is entirely confidential and I welcome your feedback and comments on the progress of our school. This survey will assist in the planning process as we formulate our 4 year plan – from 2014-2017. Your input is valued and I would appreciate it if you could send it back as soon as possible.

CONCERT and AWARDS NIGHT

We are all looking forward to a great night on Tuesday the 9th November. Notes went home yesterday asking for numbers attending the barbeque so that food can be ordered. Please send the notes back as soon as possible.

FREE DRESS DAY

Our free dress day will be held this Thursday, as per the flyer that was sent home last week. Please send along contributions for our Christmas hamper raffle, so that we have a great prize for our final raffle of the year. Please be reminded that raffle tickets will need to be returned as soon as they are sold. In alignment with our sun safety policy, please ensure that students have closed in shoes and shirts with sleeves. Students will be issued with a school shirt if they are not in compliance with our sun smart regulations.

SWIMMING

This week was the last week of swimming. I am sure that the students gained a lot of knowledge and confidence from the lessons that have occurred over the 7 weeks. I would like to thank the P&C who assisted greatly with the funding of these lessons.

AIR CONDITIONING

Last week, the P&C arranged for air-conditioning to be installed in the staff room/tuck shop. This was completely funded by the P&C and I wish to thank them for this great resource. Not only is that room used every day by staff and volunteers, it is often used as an extra area where staff or visiting Education Queensland advisory staff work with individual students. Our whole school is now completely air-conditioned, which is wonderful for our students and staff.

SWIMMING

Students in years 3-6 went to Cania Gorge last week and thoroughly enjoyed their 2 days away. I would like to sincerely thank Lance Gadsby and our Chaplain Kelli Ussher for the fantastic assistance with the students, and to Lance for driving the bus for us. A huge thank you to Mrs Neubecker for stepping in for me at the last minute and going with the class: it was greatly appreciated.

Light at the end of Boolboonda Tunnel

CAMP
Well, what a wonderful time we all had on our school camp to Cania Gorge. After an early start we arrived in Mt Perry for morning tea and (after several hours in the van) the students really enjoyed climbing on the army tank in the park where we stopped. Then, it was back in the van for the trip to the Gorge and after about 100 “What time is it’s?” and “When will we get there’s?” and lots of loud singing, we arrived at our Cabins for some lunch. The students couldn’t get unpacked and in the water park quickly enough and the hot weather certainly made the pool park very appealing.

After a swim we had showers and fed the birds. I think this was a highlight for many students who were just delighted to be interacting so closely with the wild life. That night we sat down to a lovely meal together and we have to thank Mrs Havers for cooking a very tasty Spaghetti Bolognaise sauce for us. It was a bit like Christmas in the cabin, with everyone squashed around the table and extra tables in from outside, but there was a big storm outside so we had to pack inside and the dinner was so good nobody really noticed the storm outside.

That night we watched The Lego Movie – well…..ALMOST!!! we watched The Lego Movie because, about 15 minutes from the end, we had a short blackout and the whole system turned off!!! I think after swimming for several hours that afternoon, most students were too tired to care so, we headed back to the cabins and to bed.

The next morning we had time for a delicious breakfast and a quick swim and then it was, under much protest, time to head home again. We had an interesting stop at the Museum in Mt Perry, on our way home, and a very smelly walk through the Boolboonda Tunnel.

Thanks must go to Mrs White for her organisation of a great camp, to Chappy for being such great company for us all and to Mr. Gadsby for driving us there and back without incident. But, most of all, thanks MUST go to the students who were polite, helpful and good fun. They certainly make the decision to have another camp very easy to make.

Jenny Neubecker
STAFF UPDATE

At this stage, I am still unable to inform you who the Principal of Avondale State School will be in 2015. However, I have been informed that I have been appointed permanent Principal of Alloway State School beginning next year. I have made some wonderful friends in my time at Avondale and I know that I will miss the support and friendship of many of the families at the school. But most of all, I will miss the beautiful children that I have been fortunate to teach over the year. These ‘country kids’ are an absolute delight and I sincerely hope that I can keep in touch and see how they progress throughout their school life. Lastly, I wish to thank the loyal staff at Avondale. I sincerely mean it when I say that the community is very lucky to have such dedicated people looking after your children. Their continued support has been very important to me over the year, as I have faced many personal challenges. They have always been right there to ‘pick up the pieces’ and I cannot thank them enough. Your children are certainly in great hands. This will be our final ‘official’ newsletter for the year, however, you will certainly be kept informed of the staffing updates as they become available.

FAME THEATRE VISIT

Permission notes were sent home this week to allow students to attend the FAME Theatre performance. Students are required to be in school uniform for the excursion. Once again, the P&C have kindly funded the bus and the cost of the performance has been met by the school. As you can see, the P&C play a very active role in ensuring that families have very little out of pocket expenses, so their fundraising endeavours are certainly aimed at supporting all families. Please consider assisting them in their fundraising activities, the more people who volunteer, the easier it is for everyone.

ACTIVE AFTER SCHOOL COMMUNITIES

We have had to cancel a few of the tennis workshops due to Mr Whitbread being unable to attend. These lessons will be made up and as soon as we know the dates, we will let you know.

TAVERN ROSTER FOR TERM 4

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<th>Date</th>
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<tr>
<td>November 28th</td>
<td>Peter Goudie</td>
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<td>December 5th</td>
<td>Williamson family, Sharee Heath (ham wheel)</td>
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<tr>
<td>December 12th</td>
<td>Pratt family</td>
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<tr>
<td>December 19th</td>
<td>Pratt family and Peter Goudie (ham wheel)</td>
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DATES TO REMEMBER

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Monday</th>
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<tr>
<td></td>
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<td>27th November: free dress day</td>
<td>28th November FAME performance</td>
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<td>2nd December Prep transition 9-11</td>
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<td>5th December Ham Wheel</td>
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<td>8th December P&amp;C Meeting 6pm</td>
<td>9th December Awards and Concert from 5pm</td>
<td>10th December Rewards Day</td>
<td>11th December break up day Bundy Bowl and Leisure</td>
<td>12th December – last day term 4</td>
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