Welcome to our new students.

We welcome five new students from four new families this year. In the Prep - 2 class, we have Kaela and Charlie starting in Prep and Riley starting in Year 1. The Year 3-6 class welcomes Katelyn and Leon. I'm quite sure our new students and their families will enjoy their time at Pilton.

Great Results Guarantee.

You may have seen recent newspaper articles about this new State government undertaking. The Government has provided some $131 million dollars to fund the programme, with Pilton State School in line to receive $5300. The intention of the Guarantee is that schools will "promise" to raise student outcomes. The Guarantee will take the form of a signed agreement between myself and the Director-General of Education and is to be published on the school website so as to be available to all. Prior to publication, the Guarantee will need acceptance by parents.

Mrs Heaton and I have spent some time trying to formulate a response to the Guarantee. I will also take part in a teleconference this afternoon to learn more about what is required. We know the school needs to identify one or two areas where we feel we need to increase student results. Our focus will probably be on spelling and numeracy.

At this stage, Mrs Heaton and I see the Guarantee as including two new programmes, one each for spelling and maths. We have been investigating the two programmes since late last year. Mrs Heaton will be attending a day of training in the spelling programme next week and we will both travel to Brisbane next Thursday for an introduction to the maths programme from the programme writer.

As well, we will be putting more students on individual support plans. These plans will be put together for students who are having difficulty in one or more areas. The plan could include work undertaken at school, at home or both and will require parental input and support.

Whether in a whole class or with individual students, most, if not all of these interventions, will be short, sharp and focused, taking less than 30 minutes for each once proper routines are established. The interventions will complement other classroom work and are in a form we have been looking at introducing anyway.

The funding accompanying the Guarantee is most welcome. Should our plan be acceptable, the money will cover the initial purchase of programme materials and the training needed. As well, the money will cover part of what we are spending to purchase additional teacher-aide time to ensure we a full complement of staff in each classroom for Monday through to Thursday.

P&C Meet and Greet.

Elsewhere in this newsletter, you will find a notice for the Meet and Greet. Please come along as staff are looking forward to catching up with as many parents as possible. And there are plenty of parents keen to get to know new parents.

As well as a barbeque tea, there will be a supervised movie in one classroom for students. There will be a P&C meeting, but it will be as brief as possible. Most items of business will be held over to a meeting later in the term.

Remember, the P&C is open to all, parents as well as parents. We just need people willing to contribute to the well-being of the school.

There is at least one important issue that needs to be discussed at the P&C meeting (other than the election of office bearers) so please try to make it along.

Active After School Care.

Our apologies for resuming AASC without notice. It crept up on us during those first couple of hectic weeks. (We are now in our third hectic week and look like being in hectic weeks all term.)

This term, students will be doing tennis on Mondays and a variety of active games on Wednesdays. AASC runs from 2:45pm until 3:45pm. Students are provided with afternoon tea, usually fruit, biscuits and fruit juice and then have supervised activities.

Participation is voluntary and your students can be collected at any time should you need to do so.
Sport

Last week, Casee and Clayton represented Small School at the Central Downs swimming carnival. Both report having had a great sports day despite coming up against some very good swimmers.

The next Central Downs event is the Tennis Carnival held at the Clifton Tennis courts on Friday 21st February. Pilton SS team will be made up of Billy-Rose, Lizzie, Levi and Clayton.

Nobby Triathlon for Years 4-6 will follow on Friday 28th February. To participate, students need a push bike and helmet and need to be able to swim. Nobby has quite a short pool (about 10 metres long I think) but students need to complete three lengths on each circuit. The competition requires students to complete as many laps of the circuit in a given time. Each circuit comprises a swim, run and bike section. Parents will need to make arrangements to get students and bikes to Nobby State School on the day.

Regards,

Stuart Fuller

Playgroup

Playgroup will meet as usual tomorrow.
All welcome

Get training!

The Nobby State School Triathlon is back!!

Students born 2002-2005 are invited to attend.

See your teacher for nomination details

Date: Friday 28th February
Time: 9:45am - 1:30pm

See how many laps of our circuit you can complete in 1 hour

Circuit

300m Run

3 laps Nobby SS pool (37.5m)

600m Bike Ride

To get in the action, speak to your teacher at school

Prizes, Fun and Exercise

Trophy awarded to the school with the most circuits completed

Come and enjoy the fun!!
HOST FAMILIES NEEDED IN JUNE 2014
EXPERIENCE ANOTHER CULTURE,
MAKE NEW FRIENDS
IMPROVE YOUR LANGUAGE STUDIES
AT HOME

In June we will be receiving exchange students from Europe, Japan, the USA & Latin America. Our new arrivals will live with a host family and attend a local school for 2 or 10 months. As we plan for their arrival, we are looking for host families across Australia to welcome these students into their home.

Hosting is an experience that is often referred to as a way to ‘reignite your passion for your country’, whilst at the same time creating bonds and sharing lifelong memories. Attached is a notice for your newsletter in a PDF format. We would appreciate if you could please download this for your newsletter, noticeboard or website.

All students have at least basic levels of English, would attend a school in your local area and live the life of a local. Our group of students cover a wide variety of interests and hobbies. If you would like to provide your students, parents or language teachers with further information on our inbound students you can also view some student profiles on our website. Our staff members will be happy to discuss which student might be best suited to a family.

Hosting an exchange student can be a truly rewarding experience. It allows a family to experience a foreign culture first hand, be exposed to a new language and pass on a bit of our own culture. They might even make a friend for life!

“Hosting Kirstine has brought our family closer together. We’re doing things we used to do when our kids were little, like boiling the billy, having a BBQ and baking apples up the paddock. She’s helped us remember how to have fun when we’re working and take time out for adventures.” Sharon, Host Mum

“Being the youngest and the only one left at home I was looking forward to having another teenager in the house. While Charlotte helps me with my French I help her with her English lessons and I have taught her many Aussie words and sayings. We both love to shop and shop and shop…” Grace, Host Sister

Student Exchange Australia New Zealand is a not-for-profit secondary exchange organisation which is registered with education & regulatory authorities in each State and Territory. You can find out more about our organisation by visiting www.studentexchange.org.au.

If you have any questions about hosting an exchange student or would like to view profiles of students arriving from other countries, you can either respond to this email or call our office on 1300 135 331.

Thank you in advance for your assistance.

Yours sincerely,
Sandra Harders
Hosting Coordinator
Welcome Riley, Leon and Katelyn
Dear Parents,

Welcome back for another year to old parents and a big welcome to the new parents of 2014.

Please join us for a Meet and Greet and the Annual General Meeting of the Pilton Primary Parents and Citizens Committee next Wednesday night at 6pm at the school.
All positions will be declared vacant and a new committee voted in for 2014.
We do aim to keep proceedings as expedient as possible so that we can get on with the important parts of the evening – socialising – however we will need to run a short general meeting to present a couple of important proposals.
There will be activities for the kids and a BBQ. Please bring a plate to share for supper.

Our first fundraiser is on Saturday, the 1st of March.
The fundraiser is a Sausage Sizzle at Masters and the reason it is so early in the year is that these fundraisers are in high demand, so we snapped up the opportunity last year when it was offered.

The sausage sizzle setup is at 8.00am for an 8.30am start and will finish around 3.30pm. We need 6 volunteers on the stall at all times. Obviously the more helpers we get, the less time each of us has to do. Your help would be really appreciated. Jacqui Gill is organising the roster, a number of families have offered to help in the morning and she will be looking for help through the afternoon.

Please fill in the availability form and return to the school and we will be in touch as soon as a roster is finalised.

Looking forward to seeing you at the meet and greet.

Yours truly,

Alex Kennedy
Pilton P&C President 2013

Sausage Sizzle Fundraiser at Masters

Family Name:___________________________________

Number of Volunteers:

[ ] able to help from 8am to 12pm.

[ ] able to help from 12pm to 3.30pm.

[ ] available for any time needed.