Pilton News

Important Dates:

- Toowoomba Show Holiday: Thursday 27th March
- Trash Ya Hair & Free Dress: Friday 28th March
- P&C Meeting: Tuesday 1st April, 6pm
- Y5/6 V Principal Challenge: Friday 4th April, 8.30am
- Last Day of Term 1: Friday 4th April
- First Day of Term 2: Tuesday 22nd April
- Central Downs Cross Country: Wednesday 23rd April
- ANZAC Day Holiday: Friday 25th April
- Reading: Although reading has always been a priority, we are working even harder to develop the reading skills of our students. There are a number of components to this.
  - Training: Mrs Heaton and I spent yesterday and will spend next Tuesday at a course called Understanding Dyslexia and Significant Difficulties in Reading.
    - The course requires at least 20 hours of a teacher’s time so both Mrs Heaton and I have been left with a considerable amount of homework to do this week. Although originally put together in England, the course was updated and by the NSW Education Department and access given to all their teachers. The course is a mixture of on-line and face to face with a tutor and I must admit to finding the course quite engaging yesterday.
    - The course provides quite readable insights into the latest research into how we learn to read. But, more important-ly, it provides a high quality range of assessments that may sometimes give us better information as to the types of difficulties particular students experience and support to teachers to select evidence based interventions to help students with reading difficulties.

  - Testing: For reading to develop, students need to be working with texts that are at what we call their instructional level. Students need to be regularly tested to gain this information. We have always tested students for this information but this testing may happen more frequently for some students. However, for general reading enjoyment, children need to be reading texts just a little easier than the instructional.

  - Reading practices: Children need to listen to be read to, read to others and read with others. Those who were at the information afternoon Mrs Heaton ran would have found the support programme she outlined does just this – having children being read to, reading with and reading to the support person. Students already have the opportunity to read to themselves each morning after they arrive.

  - As well, we are extremely grateful to the parents and community members who have given some of their time to helping students read. As we get this reading programme fully implemented, I am sure volunteers will be rewarded by seeing the reading skills of students develop.

  - Books: Thanks to Mrs Heaton, we have seen the return of book club to the school. Children need a range of interesting books at school and at home to help them enjoy reading. Books are not cheap but they can be an investment in your child’s future.

Dads, I am hoping to hold an event early next term to attract men from our community to spend time reading with our students. More information when it is available.

Great Results Guarantee (GRG).

Our Guarantee has been signed off by the Director-General of Education and is now up on the school website (www.piltonss.eq.edu.au). Luckily for us, the Guarantee was able to be shaped to fit work we had already decided to do in our school. For example, we had already been to another school to view a spelling programme that we are now introducing. As well, we are introducing a maths programme based on similar teaching methods as the spelling. The programmes, Maths Mastery and Spelling Mastery, have commenced this week.

Also, the school had already determined we needed to buy additional teacher-aide and teacher time to ensure we could run our classrooms to best benefit our students.

Although very little of this money will be recouped through the GRG payments, the agreement does reflect a large part of the actual costs.

Happy Birthday!!

Jordan 21st and Mr Fuller 28th March.
Term 1 – Term 2.
This school term will end next Friday 4th April. Students are expected to return to school on Tuesday 22nd April. The first week of next term will be short but hectic as we have the Central Downs Cross Country on Wednesday and the Friday will be the Anzac Day public holiday.
Term 2 will include the NAPLAN tests for Years 3 and 5. If you have questions or concerns about these tests, please speak with me as soon as possible to find out the answers to your questions or where you stand with your concerns.
There will be no mini term report this year – we just haven’t had time. But both Mrs Heaton and I are keen to see any parents who wish to talk to us about their child/children. I believe we can tell you more (and in a shorter time) by talking to you and answering your questions.

Central Downs Cross Country.
As noted above, this event is on Wednesday 23rd April. The P&C will be catering and will need your help again to provide biscuits, slices etc and to run the stall and the barbecue. The school is looking for a volunteer with a four wheel drive to follow behind the runners and bring back any competitor who is unable to complete the course.

Free Dress for Trash Your Hair Day.
We encourage the school leaders to hold at least two fundraisers a term, one of which needs to be for a charity. Funds from the other event are held in a separate account by the school. These funds are used each year to subsidise the cost of school leader shirts and in the past have also been put toward the cost of the school camp when there has been sufficient funds in the account.
The student leaders have asked to hold a charity fundraiser this Friday. Their chosen charity is the Toowoomba Hospice. Students are able to wear free dress and can colour their hair. The student leaders ask that each family provide a gold coin donation which will go to the hospice. Of course, you are welcome to donate more if you wish.
As for me, I’m going to see how I look with hair a silvery grey colour.

Active After-School Care.
Active After-School Care finishes for the term today. The programme is only funded for seven weeks each term. It will be back next term with a new programme on one of the days.

Year 5/6 v The Principal.
Fortunately for the students, the weather will be against the (one sided) challenge that was to take place on Friday. I can already hear them whinging about how hard it was with a bit of mud on their shoes. So, to give them just the slightest little chance, I’ve decided to do two things. First, we will put the challenge off until next Friday. This will allow the students to get a bit fitter and me to get a bit older and so increase their meagre chances of beating me.
Secondly, as I’m heading off to Brisbane to catch up with my daughter for the weekend, I’ve decided to take the weekend off and not train. Not that I need to train to beat this lot!! But, we have to give them a glimmer of hope.
Well, I will train, but at the Archive Beer Boutique in West End I hope – 22 different beers on tap and that’s a lot of walking from seat to bar and back. So, come along next Friday at 8:30am and watch me grind them in to the dust………..or the mud.
I’m looking forward to it.

P&C MEETING NOTICE
The next General Meeting of the P&C will be held on
Tuesday 1st April at 6pm.
NOTICE !!!!!
Please note that Library Day has been changed to Thursday.

Playgroup!!
Playgroup will meet as usual on Friday morning. All welcome.

TRASH YA HAIR

Trash Ya Hair Day and free dress!!
Bring your own coloured hair spray or share some with your friends.
Don’t forget to donate a gold coin for free dress and trash ya hair.!!!

CALLING ALL BRAVE PEOPLE TO THE NOBBY STATE SCHOOL SHAVE OFF!!!

When: March 28th 2014 (This Friday)
Where: Nobby State School
Time: 5pm

The shave off will consist of many brave people getting shaved, coloured and waxed. We are also having a sausage sizzle to help raise funds for the Leukaemia Foundation. Free tea and coffee will be available. You can be involved by simply coming along and supporting everyone on the night and by making a donation.

On the night if you want to:
Colour: $20   Shave: $30   Wax: $50 (legs or chest)
Cash, Credit Card or Cheque accepted

PLUS SO MUCH MORE, WE CAN’T FIT IT ON HERE

Phone Rose Hopper for more details
0427 175 766