FROM THE PRINCIPAL

Welcome
Welcome parents, staff and students to week 9 of term 4 in 2013.

Thank You
It is with a heavy heart that I write in this last newsletter for 2013 as it will be my last one at Runcorn State School. As stated in the last newsletter, Mr Greg Gosling will be returning to his position of Principal in 2014 which means that Friday, 13th December, will be my last day as Principal at Runcorn.

Runcorn State School has great students, great teachers and fantastic parents, all of which makes this community school the great place that it is. I would like to take this opportunity to thank the community for all the support they have given to the school and me over the past year. I return to Algester (my permanent position) as Deputy Principal for 2014.

I wish you all a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year.

The Week Ahead
There are lots of things happening over the course of the next week. These events include:

- Meet the Teacher/Farewell Assembly (where students get to meet the teacher of their class for 2014 and we farewell our staff who are leaving). This happens 2pm, Wednesday, 11th December 2013.
- Graduation for Year 7 on Wednesday, 11th December, 7pm at Mansfield State High School.
- Party day on Thursday, 12th December, for classes to celebrate the end of the school year together (this will only be a small part of the day).

End of Year Concert
Thank you to all of the parents, children and teachers who attended and made the night the success it was. There was great Christmas spirit along with some fantastic performances from the students. A big thanks also to all of the staff who performed so well on the night. Special thanks to the P&C for their hard work in organising the raffles and food for the night.

Captains
Congratulations to the following students on being elected to the 2014 Captaincy positions:

BAND

STRINGS
End of Year Concert
Thank you to all of the parents, children and teachers who attended and made the night the success it was. There was great Christmas spirit along with some fantastic performances from the students. A big thanks also to all of the staff who performed so well on the night. Special thanks to the P&C for their hard work in organising the raffles and food for the night.

Captains
Congratulations to the following students on being elected to the 2014 Captaincy positions:

**BAND**
- Emily Weatherall
- Matthew Bruce

**CHOIR**
- Phoebe Sharpe
- Alex Graham

**STRINGS**
- Emily Bowden
- Lorenzo Cruz

**LIBRARY**
- Kaitlyn George
- Brooklyn Clayton

Report Cards
Report cards will be sent home on Thursday, 12th December 2013.

Keep a Watch on our School These Holidays
Parents and students can help take care of our school by reporting any suspicious after-hours activity to School Watch on 13 17 88. By keeping an eye out we can work together to create a safer school community and help to reduce vandalism, theft and arson in our school.

If you see something suspicious, please don’t intervene. Call the School Watch number and let the local police or State Government Protective Security Service deal with the matter.

Regards

Mark Johnstone

DEPUTY DIALOGUE

Uniforms for 2014
There has been such an improvement in the way the students wear their uniform during this semester, congratulations to you as their parents. Can you please ensure that as you prepare for 2014 that the ONLY shoes that you purchase for school are **PLAIN black or white**, not coloured laces or inserts. This would align with our school uniform policy exactly.

Geography
2014 sees the introduction of the National Geography Curriculum. Education Queensland has written a number of units from Prep to Year 7 that align with this. These will be introduced in semester 2 next year.

2014
It is really important that you and your children are prepared for 2014. This can be achieved by having the correct book list ordered and ready for use on day one next year, having a uniform that is neat and tidy, talking positively about school and all that can be achieved by applying yourself to learning. We look forward to partnering with you in learning during next year.

Volunteers
We enjoyed a lovely morning tea with our volunteers. They contribute so much to our community school in a variety of ways and we are the richer for having them work with our students. Thanks again for all you do for us – you are awesome…

Farewells
I would like to bid a fond farewell to Mrs Gall, Mrs Wallace, Mrs Benn, Ms Nielsen, Mrs Tatham, and Mrs Deen who have served our community so faithfully over many years. You have enriched our community so very much. We also wish Mrs Buddle a relaxing long service leave.

Finally to Mr Johnstone, you have lead us well, encouraged us to do our best and gotten to know us as a school community, we wish you every success. Lastly to our Year 7s, make us proud as you continue on in your learning journey. We wish you, our families, joy and peace at this special time of year and we look forward to working with you again in 2014.

Happy learning,

Kaye Dalus
Deputy Principal
TERM DATES FOR 2013 SCHOOL YEAR

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>TERM</th>
<th>START</th>
<th>END</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>Tuesday, 8 October 2013</td>
<td>Friday, 13 December 2013</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

TERM DATES FOR 2014 SCHOOL YEAR

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>TERM</th>
<th>START</th>
<th>END</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>28 January 2014</td>
<td>4 April 2014</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>22 April 2014</td>
<td>27 June 2014</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>14 July 2014</td>
<td>19 September 2014</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>7 October 2014</td>
<td>12 December 2014</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

PREP ENROLMENTS 2014
We are now accepting enrolment applications for Prep 2014. Prep enrolment eligibility for 2014 is for children born between 1st July 2008 – 30th June 2009. Enrolment forms are available from the Administration Office.

2014 BOOKLISTS NOW AVAILABLE
Booklists for next year have been distributed to all students. If you did not receive one, copies are available on our website or from the office.

INCURSIONS/EXCURSIONS AND CAMP PAYMENTS
To avoid the disappointment of your child not being able to attend Year level excursions, payments MUST be made by the cut-off date stated in the excursion letter. This is due to the new Education Queensland financing system. Payments can be made by cash/cheque/efpos or direct deposit into the school’s bank account (BSB 064-162/Account No. 00090035). If you have any concerns or difficulties with these payments, please do not hesitate to contact the front office to discuss payment arrangements in advance of cut-off date. Invoices will no longer be sent home, please regard the excursion letter as your invoice for payment.

TERM 4 ~ DATES OF SIGNIFICANCE

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>DAY</th>
<th>DATE</th>
<th>EVENT</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Friday</td>
<td>6 December</td>
<td>Yr 7 Wet’n’Wild</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Monday</td>
<td>9 December</td>
<td>Parade, 2.30pm (School Leaders)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wednesday</td>
<td>11 December</td>
<td>Junior Swimming Carnival (Grades 1-3, 9am – 11am)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wednesday</td>
<td>11 December</td>
<td>Meet the Teacher/Farewell Staff Assembly, 2pm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wednesday</td>
<td>11 December</td>
<td>Yr 7 Graduation Ceremony</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Thursday</td>
<td>12 December</td>
<td>Final Parade, 9am – 9.30am</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Thursday</td>
<td>12 December</td>
<td>Report Cards go home</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Thursday</td>
<td>12 December</td>
<td>End of Year Class Parties</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Friday</td>
<td>13 December</td>
<td>Last Day of Term 4, Clean Up Day</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

LOST PROPERTY
Don't forget to check through the bins throughout the year for any items that your children may have misplaced. Any leftover items will be donated to charity at the end of each term. A large pencil case, mobile phone, single earring, child’s spectacles and three toy cars have been handed in to the office. If you or your child have misplaced theirs, please contact the school office.

SWIMMING CARNIVALS - SAVE THE DATE
Upcoming swimming carnival dates are as follows:-

- Junior Carnival for Grades 1-3 - Wednesday December 11th from 9am-11am
SANDY WATERS

BY JOSEPH FRANCISCO (3B)

In the wonderful wet waters,
On the sandy stony dunes,
I can see....

Titanic tidal waves rumbling over rocks,
Lofty lanky people browsing through tour books.
Gigantic towering sand dunes evolving from boulders,
Wild energetic kids darting with sunburnt shoulders.

I can hear...

Roaring raucous kids splashing in the water,
A single slender child chomping on a pizza quarter.
Booming crashing waves lapping onto shore,
Cheering deafening people playing volleyball.

I can feel...

Icy refreshing water running through my fingers,
Coarse sand wasps hurting me with their stingers.
Sizzling scorching sun burning me with her rays,
Exciting exhilarating fun thrilling us these days.

By Joseph Francisco (3B)

RUNCORN SPARKLES

The Runcorn Sparkles recently competed at Qld PowerUp Showcase at the Logan Metro Centre. The girls came 2nd in their category and we are so proud of their effort.

A big Thank You to our parents and friends who came to support the girls on the day and another big Thank You to Miss Sandi for giving up her time to run rehearsals.

Phoebe, Rickisha and Myora on behalf of the Runcorn Sparkles

P&C NEWS

What a great year we have had for the P & C Association. It has been a very busy year and we have raised a considerable amount of money for our school. We have hosted our Funfest this year, as well as Discos, Mother’s and Father’s day stalls, BBQ’s, Cake stalls, Carboot sales, Trivia night, Raffles, and a Fun Run to name a few.

One question we are often asked is “Where does all the money go?”

I am proud to inform you how some of the money has been spent this year:-

- We have restocked the resource centre with $10,000 of new books suitable for all ages and reading levels.
- We have also assisted one of our students to go to the National Schools Touch Football Competition.
- We purchased new equipment vital to the running of the school’s committees such as a new oven for the tuckshop, a cash register for the uniform shop and a money counting machine.
- The school swimming program was also partially funded by the P & C.
- The P & C are also hoping to install a school noticeboard in Girraween Place early next year.

Instrumental DVD

An order form will be sent out next week so keep an eye out to place your orders.
Thank You
While the P & C have an elected committee who donate an enormous amount of their personal time and effort to the school, we have a wonderful school community who generously donate their time to help out at various events. Without the support of these incredible volunteers we could not achieve what we do.

We would like to take this opportunity to say “Thank You” to everyone who has volunteered this year and we look forward to working with you again next year.

On behalf of the P & C, I would also like to express thanks to the school, including teachers and staff, for their assistance throughout the year.

Have a Merry Christmas and safe holiday season and see you next year.

Sandra Weatherall
P & C President
0413109957

Tuckshop

End of Year Tuckshop News

- The Tuckshop will trade as normal up until Thursday, 12th December (Party Day).

- Please be aware that in the last two weeks, the Tuckshop will be running stock down. In the case that an order cannot be filled, it will be substituted with a similar priced item.

Thank you to all the families who supported the Tuckshop throughout the year by ordering Birthday Cupcakes.

Jodie Newton
Tuckshop Convenor

Uniform Shop

Uniform Shop hours are Monday / Wednesday / Friday
8.30am – 9.00am

Extra Hours for next year include:
- Wednesday, 22nd January 2014 (9-11am)
- Thursday, 23rd January 2014 (9-11am)

Hijabs are now available from the Uniform Shop in school colours - $7.50 each

Library Bags are now in stock in a full range of colours. Price lists are available at the office.

Jodie Thompson
Uniform Shop Convenor

School Banking

Please remember to redeem a reward if you have 10 tokens… (if you have 20 tokens you may redeem 2 x reward items etc). Only 9 x tokens can be carried over to next year. There will be NO school banking in the last week of school. I’d like to thank all the student bankers for a fantastic year, not only have you all saved some money but you have also raised money for the school & the school won a marquee, thanks to your great efforts.

WELL DONE

Lisa Weir
Banking Coordinator
Runcorn Swim Club – Sign On Day

Sign On for Club and Learn to Swim at the Runcorn Swimming Club

The Sign On Day for the Runcorn Swimming Club and Learn to Swim Classes is:

Saturday 7th December 2013 from 9 to 11 am

At the Runcorn State School Pool, Cnr Lampson Stand Mains Road

The Runcorn Swimming Club will be holding learn to swim blocks during the December school holidays and next year we will have learn to Swim classes Monday through to Thursday after school commencing at 3:30. The Club has a qualified Learn to Swim Teacher with over 12 years of experience. Any enquiries regarding Learn to Swim please contact Sue Kille on 3273 6108. She will be able to answer your questions and book you into a suitable time slot.

Or come and join in the squad training. The Club has a Bronze level coach, Nathan Cobbin, who trains swimmers of all levels from beginners to National level. The pool is heated so we train all year round. The Club also holds a Friday night club night. It is a family friendly night where swimmers get to develop their racing skills, whilst mums, dads and grandparents can enjoy the barbecue and socialise with other members. The first club night for the summer season is Friday 31st January 2014.

For any enquiries about joining the club, please contact Cheryl Riding, the Club President (Telephone 0402 141535) or Melissa McCusker, the Club Secretary (email address - eunanmac@hotmail.com)

Summer Reading

Make your world with Summer Reading at a Brisbane City Council library! Council’s Summer Reading program takes place from 14 December 2013 to 27 January 2014. Summer Reading offers terrific free events and activities, including:

Craft workshops, Pantomimes, Science workshops. And, it’s free to participate. Don’t miss out on the fun! Visit your local library this summer and get reading.

For more information about the Summer Reading program, pick up a copy of What’s On in Libraries (available late November), visit the website www.brisbane.qld.gov.au/libraries or phone Council on (07) 3403 8888.