FROM THE PRINCIPAL’S DESK

You might notice a couple of rather large thermometers indicating daily and weekly attendance at the school very soon. These visual updates are there for everyone to see how our students’ attendance at school is travelling each day, each week and across the term. We are setting a green light goal where both thermometers show all green! More coming soon!

P&C Meeting
The next P&C meeting is being conducted on Thursday 12th March, 3:15pm in the staff room. I will be attending a professional development session with teachers on this day, and give my apologies for this meeting. Our PD session is due to finish around 4pm and I will join the meeting at this time.

Pittsworth Show P&C Activity
Once again the Pittsworth Show Society have offered Southbrook Central the Sunday Morning ‘After Show’ Clean up job. The Show Society provide $200 to the P&C for their efforts. Camp parents are requested to assist if possible please and if anyone else is available and can help, your efforts will be greatly appreciated. Please either contact Peta Lovell or meet at the showgrounds at 7.30a.m. on Sunday (8th March) to do a bit of an Emu Parade for the rubbish.

Religious Instruction purchase of ‘Connect’ Books
Parents of students who attend RI lessons are due to pay the contribution for the purchase of connect books for semester 1 please. These books are $2.60. I would appreciate payment sent into the school by Friday 20th March. The RI teachers provide lessons on Tuesday afternoon from 2.30-3.00pm. If circumstances have changed that involve your child attending lessons, please send a note to school, indicating the change in attendance, otherwise attender and non-attender lists will remain as per 2104.

School Strategic Plan – Priority 1. Reading
Teachers will begin their online continuing professional development in the teaching of reading. This work is part of our actions as a school to enable further improvement the teaching of reading of your children. We will be looking at student data and developing individual intervention lessons according to this diagnostic information. The CAFE reading framework enables teachers to target strategies to suit groups of students and also meet the needs of individual students.

2015 State Principals’ Conference
I attended the 2015 State Principals’ Conference Thursday and Friday 26th, 27th Feb. The State Conference occurs every 2 years and the theme for this year’s conference, “A great school has a great school down the road”. This further reinforces our region’s approach to the purposeful, collaborative work of principals in their clusters. You will find more information about the key messages further in the Newsletter.

Back to Front Mathematics Professional Development
All teachers will be attending Professional Development training next Thursday and Friday at Pittsworth State High School. These two days will be focusing on identifying student mathematical misconceptions and intervention strategies to correct these. This work aligns and progresses our previous work in analysing school wide student data.

Reminder about the QSchools app.
With the school year rapidly approaching, it is important for families and staff to keep up-to-date with the latest information from our school. The QSchools app provides an easy way to access vital school information, including latest news, events and newsletters. In addition, the QSchools app now allows for push notifications to deliver essential information directly to a device, including emergency alerts and important updates. This app is available from our school website. Find out more on the DETE website, or download the app for your device: iPhone/iPad, Android, Windows phone and Windows PC.

School Assembly Day Change
Our weekly school assembly day will be changing from Wednesday to Tuesdays. This also means a change of formal uniform day from Wednesday to Tuesday. This will enable students to wear their sport uniform for Physical Education lessons on Wednesday.

Year 5-6 Camps for 2015
Year 5 and 6 students are invited to attend a leadership camp at Emu Gully in March and also a Canberra trip during late term 3 or early term 4. Date is yet to be determined. The P&C traditionally subsidise the Canberra Trip and will again this year. This year, we join with Mount Tyson State School and will travel together. Please remember that payment for Emu Gully and/or deposit for Canberra is due to be received at school by 12th March. Flights will be booked on that weekend.

Have a great weekend, everyone and remember...live in the moment...every moment!
Warm regards,
Terri-Anne
**Mrs Simpson, Mrs Rice’s & Ms Holmes’ Spectacular 3, 4, 5 & 6’s!**

**Year 5-6 Maths**  Year Fives this past fortnight have been working on rounding to 100 and 1,000, estimating and place value beyond millions. The year six students have begun their first investigation which involves them using their knowledge of prime, composite, square and triangular numbers to find the one number that will unlock the treasure chest. They have also been revising and extending their knowledge of fractions and decimals.

**Year 3-4 History**  These students have been investigating evidence about the significance of European Exploration and contact with other societies.

**Year 5-6 History**  These students have been considering the arguments for and against Australia’s Federation.

**Year 3 Science**  Students have been dissecting dry and soaked bean seeds and comparing them. They have also been dissecting flowers and labelling the parts on a diagram. This week they will investigate what happens when we place bean seedlings under different growing conditions.

**Year 3-6 Art**  Twelve out of the nineteen students in the class managed to complete their Visual Art piece in time to submit it to the Pittsworth Show. Make sure you pop in and take a look at it if you are at the show this weekend.

Mrs R

**English:**

**Year 3-4**  We have finished the book “The Twits”. As has been the case with this unit of work, we continued to learn quite a lot about the grammar of narrative writing. We are currently learning about prepositions and phrases. Students will go on to apply their new learnings to write a new chapter for The Twits.

**Year 5-6**  have been working through the book Forests of Silence. We have been analysing characters and learning how sentence structures impact on the building of character through stories.

We will be moving onto looking into language features and begin developing their own characters as we head to the assessment item.

**Maths:**

**Year 3**  are almost ready to complete their assessment item for mental computation strategies. These mental computation strategies are very new ways of thinking for the children and they must apply these understandings to addition and subtraction problems in their assessment item.

**Year 4**  students have recently completed an assessment item on patterns and algebra. The learnings that underpin the assessment consist of mathematic symbols and understandings around greater than, less than, equivalent and not equivalent and finding an unknown. We move onto Chance where students identify dependent and independent events and explain the chance of everyday events occurring.

Mrs Simpson

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**INDO LINGO—Indonesian Updates**

The students have been learning how to talk about their families in Indonesian language and making comparisons of grammar in Indonesian and English. They have been making goals about their learning and improving on their spelling test scores. As Indonesian is mostly a phonetic language, this means that the spelling is much easier than English and many of our students are becoming quite successful in this.

**SAMPAI JUMPA LAGI!**

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**Mrs Nestor’s (K)nowledgeable Preps, Year 1’s and Year 2’s**

Week 6 already and the term is ticking away. This week we completed our swimming lessons and it was great to see the improvement in so many of the students just over the five lessons. A big thank you to all the mums who came and assisted with swimming, it is greatly appreciated.

We have been busy in class putting the finishing touches on our Pittsworth Show entries and hope you all take the time to have a look at them if you go to the Show on the weekend. Prep learning continues with the letters ‘a, s, t, n, p and i’ being covered so far. You will find the sight word seals are starting to appear in their homework folders for them to practise each night—these small words are fundamental to their learning of the words that follow, so please take the time as part of their reading homework. In Maths, they have been shaping numbers and matching pairs, developing oral language such as ‘same’ and ‘different’, and grouping, sorting, and patterning.

Year 1’s and Year 2’s are busy learning their spelling and phonics. This week we are onto ‘t’ as in igloo. It is a sound that they confuse with ‘e’ but if they remember that ‘insects are itching’ they usually get it. Maths is still continuing with place value and I will be testing them to see how they are going. We have put some time in as well as the time facts. Please help your child to learn them.

For Science, we are doing Living and Non Living things. We are doing experiments with plants. We have planted two bean seeds each into cotton wool and a variety of plants in seed mix to watch them germinate. We will be looking at how plants drink and the parts of plants. There will be labelling and descriptions to be undertaken. Thanks for your assistance with homework and home reading. It is given to get them into the practice of doing homework each night.

Cheers, Jude, Maree and Lou.

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**Frozies this Friday   50c**
Reminders and Information

2015 State Principal Conference—Summary of Key Messages

During the Conference we were reminded, that effective collaboration is more than just a meeting. The nature and quality of the collaboration determines whether there is a ‘return on time’ invested. Quality collaboration requires...

- Engagement – whole-hearted commitment
- Purpose – a reason to work together
- Curiosity – a desire to learn
- Generosity – a willingness to share
- Trust – a capacity to buy into a contest of ideas

Our Cluster Meeting scheduled for Thursday 5th March provided an opportunity to reflect on the conference theme and on the key conference learnings. It was an opportunity to reframe the way in which we work together and to reaffirm and reset our agenda for the year.

The Big Key Messages during the Conference suggested via a number of internationally recognised educational speakers and researchers were:

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<th>The DG</th>
<th>Five Drivers:</th>
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<td>Empowerment</td>
<td>Collaboration</td>
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<td>Alignment</td>
<td>Capability Development</td>
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<th>Jim Spillane</th>
<th>School leadership encompasses instructional leadership, management, diagnosis and design.</th>
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<tr>
<td>Adam Fraser</td>
<td>Appropriately distributing leadership involves those with a designated leadership position as well as those teachers with skills and an aptitude to lead.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Geoff Masters</td>
<td>Leadership is the ability to influence the behaviour of others in order to achieve important results.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Patrea Walton</td>
<td>People may not remember what you say, but they will remember how you made them feel. The Third Space is that moment of transition between one role or task and the next role or task. At its best, transition involves the steps of “reflect, rest and reset”. In shorter transitions, it is a process of asking “How do I want to be in this next meeting?”</td>
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- **The DG reminded us** that the only way to achieve a better skilled workforce is through developing the capability of our people as an investment in improvement. **Reflection** – How have you balanced your GRG funds between direct intervention with students and capability development of teachers?

- **Jim Spillane** School leadership encompasses instructional leadership, management, diagnosis and design. Appropriately distributing leadership involves those with a designated leadership position as well as those teachers with skills and an aptitude to lead.

- **Adam Fraser** When you learn how to use the Third Space you will consistently be your best for your work, your family, your friends and yourself. People may not remember what you say, but they will remember how you made them feel. The Third Space is that moment of transition between one role or task and the next role or task. At its best, transition involves the steps of "reflect, rest and reset". In shorter transitions, it is a process of asking “How do I want to be in this next meeting?”

- **Geoff Masters** Leadership is the ability to influence the behaviour of others in order to achieve important results. Highly effective leaders focus on: A clear improvement agenda Targets and timelines The behaviours that affect the outcome required

- **Patrea Walton** The Principals’ Leadership Agenda 2015 has been launched. The Agenda and a sample Foundation development guide are now available on the department’s website. Three qualities, highly regarded in the principalship, are… Optimism Courage Resilience

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Publishing student photos permissions

As you know, we often publish photos of our busy school students through our Newsletters, Website, Facebook and in the Newspapers. Upon enrolment, parents complete a ‘Permission to Publish’ form that allows us to publish your child’s photo. At this time, you would also have added any variations to your consent. Eg. Not allowed to publish to Facebook. If your circumstances have changed and you would like to add any variations, please ensure that you have updated your ‘Permission to Publish’ form at the office when Jenny Johnson is at school Mon – Wed.

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New information regarding smoking around the school

From 1 January 2015, smoking is banned at all Queensland state and non-state schools, and for 5 metres beyond their boundaries. The buffer is a 5 metre no-smoking area around the perimeter of the school, beyond the school land boundary; including all structures in this area, such as bus shelters and car parks. This area does not extend into residential or business premises that share a boundary with school land. The law applies at all times—during and after school hours, on weekends and during school holidays. It includes the use of all smoking products, including regular cigarettes and devices commonly known as electronic cigarettes.

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Every Day Counts

Every day at school is an important day for your child’s education.

If your child will be absent from school for more than 10 days, it is a requirement by law that parents contact the school to complete a Student Exemption form. If your child is unwell, there are many options to notify the school of absences:

- **Telephone** the school on 46910142 and speak to someone, or leave a message on the answering machine
- **Speak** to your student’s teacher
- **Write a note** to your student’s teacher
- **Email**: the.principal@soutcentss.eq.edu.au

Unexplained absences are then listed on students’ report cards.
The value for this fortnight is **CONSIDERATION. CONSIDERATION** thinking about others. Help and encourage others. Active listening and following directions. Include others. Chairs up, tidy desk area and clean floor.

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**Southbrook Central’s 5C’s — Values**

- **Consideration**
  - Thinking about others

- **Commitment**
  - Always doing my best

- **Courage**
  - Knowing what is right and acting upon it

- **Care**
  - Looking after:
    - Ourselves
    - Our school
    - Our community

- **Courtesy**
  - Using manners in all situations

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**Earning Golden Pentagons**

We have begun the new Pentagon reward system this term. Students no longer start with 17 pentagons. They earn the coloured pentagons throughout the term. Further information is given below.

- **We will continue to have a single 5C focus and teach lessons.** Eg. Courtesy
- **This 5C focus will be across one fortnight.**
- **During this fortnight, teachers actively monitor students’ behaviour and collect data**
- **At the end of the fortnight, teachers meet and discuss the collected data and decisions are collectively made about the students who have consistently demonstrated the focus 5C.** Qualifying students receive a coloured pentagon for that fortnight. Further to this,
  - **If a student achieves 3 coloured pentagons across the term – this then equates to a Golden Pentagon at the end of the term and the student celebrates by participating in our end of term Golden Pentagon Day.**
  - **If a student achieves all 5 pentagons across the term – this then equates to 2 Golden Pentagons at the end of the term and the student celebrates by participating in our end of term Golden Pentagon Day and also receives an additional Tuckshop Voucher.**

Our new pentagon reward system:

- **Links directly to the 5C teaching focus for the fortnight,**
- **Provides a more consistent sense of motivation for students knowing that a Golden Pentagon can be achieved, even if a student misses earning one or two coloured pentagons**
- **Rewards our consistently good students for their everyday good behaviours and lifts the bar for those that need a little incentive to get there!**

As our core business is commitment to learning, one parameter to students participating in the Golden Pentagon day is that one of their earned pentagons must be ‘Commitment’. In short – all students need to earn this pentagon when we focus on Commitment.
Joining the School P&C

Joining the P&C Association is a great way to keep informed, to contribute to the quality education of your children and to make new friends. Your contribution can be as large or small as you can manage, but your ongoing support of the P&C Association is invaluable.

Not only will you be supporting the school community but you will be supported by the school community. You can learn new skills, and gain a clear understanding of how the school operates. This is a great opportunity to share in the school’s decision-making process and shape the future.

The major elements of a school community include:

- The P&C Association and Members
- The School Principal
- The School Staff
- The Students
- The Parents (including caregivers, guardians, grandparents etc.)
- Local businesses and organisations
- The wider local community

P&C News

Last newsletter, I mentioned that the P&C pay an insurance that is an extra that we choose to do for our students (hoping of course that they never need it). This is an insurance that covers them at school and also at other places and bus travel to and from events away from our school.

To understand more about this the best place to go is the P&C Qld website. So just type in P&C Qld, then click on P&C Resources, go down to Insurance, click on that and then go into the links under STUDENT PERSONAL ACCIDENT INSURANCE. Here you will find out what the insurance covers, and how you can go about making a claim. Please, if you have any worries call Peta 0409 898 485, I will try my best to help out or point you in the direction of someone who can help.

Bunnings and Felton Fine Food Festival are both coming up in April. We will be looking to borrow camp ovens if you have any for Felton, these are both going to be huge events that we will be looking for as much help as we can get. There will be rosters put out soon for you to choose a time that might best suit you. We also understand that it is Easter Holidays and that there will no doubt a lot of you with other plans, But if you are around, please consider helping, many hand make light work, and everything we make goes back into our school.

Kind Regards

Peta Lovell—Secretary

Easter Raffle

The P&C will be conducting an Easter Raffle, so we are asking families to make a small EASTER contribution, to make up some fabulous prizes.

If we could have donations in by the 20th March, that would be great! We will gratefully accept any items you might like to donate, anything Easterish......

For our new families, we will send home a small book of 5 tickets, that we will ask you to return, sold tickets with money and any unsold tickets.

If you have any concerns, call Peta 0409 898 485
Uniform Shop Information
The uniform shop is further reducing the sale price of current unisex basketball shorts. You can now buy these for $9 $5...only while stocks last.
The Uniform Shop is open every Tuesday, or by appointment.

Tuckshop
We are needing volunteers to help on Thursday during the day.
If you can help with any of the above please call Amy 0400910252 or Kerrie 0409055679.
Thanks again for the support.
Amy & Kerrie

Southbrook Central State School enjoy the GRIP Young Leaders Conference held at Highfields on the 19th February. The GRIP Student Leadership Conference is unique in that it concentrates specifically on training student leaders for their role as SCHOOL LEADERS. The style, topics, and content of this conference all focus on what the students can do RIGHT NOW. They Leadership skills included — to stand up when there is an opportunity, stand up for what is right, stand up for others and stand up for themselves. The conference goal was that our student leaders would leave the conference with a clear vision, a solid understanding and dozens of ideas for their time as a leader.
Maxine Lovell, Trenton McNab, Otto Friedrichs, Reagan Collin and Jessie Friedrichs attended a Science Day held at Mt Tyson School. They were shown how electricity works and travels, mostly in the form of Lightning. It is important to stay safe.

Tobias, 20yr old Junior Championship Coach from Denmark ran an orienteering session for 25 students at Southbrook on Feb 9th.

Tobias told the students that orienteering was as big in Denmark as rugby league is in Australia. He also told them that he started orienteering when he was 12 yrs old and has been to 17 countries to compete so far. He and Felicity set up 5 different courses on a grid that the students had to orienteer their way through. It was timed with the students using the orienteering equipment to start and finish. A great afternoon was had by all, with Sean Brown having the fastest time!

Congratulations to Maxine Lovell, Matilda Collin and Dylan Collin who represented Southbrook Central State School at the Bunya District Swimming Carnival. Matilda Collin will go on to represent Southbrook at the Next level—Darling Downs.

Have a great weekend.