This will be our last Newsletter for Term 1. Term 2, Week 1 will be the next Newsletter. I take this opportunity to highlight a couple of changes to the Newsletter next term. Last P&C meeting I talked about our Newsletter in its current form – content/frequency. It was decided that we would continue it fortnightly, supported by weekly Principal emails, however the Classroom Curriculum sections would not continue in their current form. Teachers will now provide to parents, a “Curriculum Chatter” Newsletter at the start of every term and the fortnightly classroom sections might only be included if teachers have reminders for parents or photos. I will also be making some minor cosmetic changes to the layout and would value your feedback.

P&C Trivia Night Success
Huge congratulations to our fabulous P&C for conducting such a successful and fun trivia night on Friday night! What a lot of fun. It was one of the most interesting trivia nights I have attended and the varied categories kept all involved. It was clear that a lot of effort went into preparations and Kirsty & Peta ensured that all ran smoothly. Thank you for organising this great fundraiser. I truly hope it becomes an annual or biannual event for the school. It is a great way to involve the broader Southbrook Community too. I am quite sure it will attract even more competitors at the next trivia night.

Side Gate Pick up - Update
I wrote in our previous Newsletter…”At the request of the P&C, I have written a letter to council requesting that our side drop off point be safety assessed. The table drain at the side of the school that runs parallel to the school and road presents a couple of safety issues. Car doors swing back on small children when getting in and out of cars and the drain catchment at the corner of the school is an open drain. We would ideally like to see this area levelled and have pipes directing the flow of water straight into the corner catchment. "I will keep you up to date with this progress.

Progress update – I have had a reply from the Department of Transport and Main Roads. They have indicated that this is a local council matter. I have not had any response from Toowoomba Regional Council.

Cross Country
Congratulations to all the students for competing so well in our recent cross country. Thank you to Mr Morris, who, as usual, ran a smooth event. I was particularly impressed with our Sport House Captains and the effort they put into preparing their teams for war cries—Well done Chaz, Waylan, Bon and Frances.

Congratulations to the Goldstars house for achieving the highest race points and to Superstars for best War Cry. Congratulations to the students who achieved championship medals. Information and Consent forms are attached to this Newsletter for students who qualified for the Rossvale Level. Please return these by the due date, ready for next term.

Polling Booth
The P&C will be conducting a cake stall near the polling booth for those interested in purchasing morning or afternoon refreshments.

On the Horizon
Please add the following dates to your calendars for Term 2.
18th April—Principal off campus attending Regional Principal Business Meeting
18th April—Practice run for Rossvale Cross Country. Qualifying students only
21st April—Trash ya Hair for Hospice Care. (Student council fundraiser for Toowoomba Hospice)
Gold coin donation and students can have their hair coloured at school
25th April—ANZAC Day. Southbrook Students march at Pittsworth Commemoration March.
5th May—Oakey/Gore Cluster Meeting—Principal off campus
6th May Bunya Cross Country
10-12th May—NAPLAN. Whole school (except Prep and Year 1) is involved in NPLAN Tests or practice NAPLAN tests throughout the three days
13th May—Super Six Soccer
17th May—Year 5&6 participate in Spirit of ANZAC Centenary Experience in Toowoomba
24th May—Darling Downs Cross Country
16, 17th June—Year 3&4 students attend Amaroo Outdoor Education and overnight camp at Highfields
20, 21st June—Year 3&4 attend Bike Safety in Toowoomba

If you forget any of the dates, please use our school website to remind you. They can be found in our events calendar.

As this is our last Newsletter for the term, I sincerely wish you all a very happy Easter and that your Easter vacation is a restful one...if only from the usual school routines!

National Day Against Bullying and Violence

Today is National Day Against Bullying and Violence. The students have been involved in activities around this—through the lens of our school value—Courage. I have included a couple of information items in this Newsletter that might interest you.

Happy holidays and I look forward to seeing you all again next term,
Warmest regards
Terri-Anne

Dear parents

At our school we aim to create a safe and supportive school community for everyone.

Sometimes, it can be difficult for parents or carers to know what to do when their child talks to them about bullying.

You are an important part of our work to prevent bullying and to respond effectively if it happens. Stopping bullying involves everyone.

If your child talks to you about bullying:

1. **Listen** calmly and get the full story. Your calm response is important to allow your child to tell you all about the situation. After they've told you their story, ask questions to get more details if you need to: who, what, where, when. Although you may feel some strong emotions about your child's experience, try to keep calm to avoid more distress to your child.

2. **Reassure** your child that they are not to blame. Many children blame themselves and this may make them feel even worse. You could say things like, 'That sounds really hard to deal with. No one should have to put up with that.' or 'I'm so glad you told me. You should be able to feel safe at school, that's not fair at all'.

3. **Ask** your child what they want to do and what they want you to do. A critical part of your response is to avoid jumping in to solve the problem. While it is natural to want to protect your child, helping them to find their own solution is a better option. It helps them feel they have some power in the situation.

4. **Visit** [www.bullyingnoway.gov.au](http://www.bullyingnoway.gov.au) to find some strategies. The website has tips and ideas for different bullying situations. One idea is to practice strategies at home to help your child feel more confident.

5. **Contact** the school. Your child may be reluctant for you to do this, so discuss the idea and reassure them that the school would want to know and is able to help. Make an appointment to meet with your child's teacher and, if you need to, ask to talk with the principal. Contact the school immediately if you have a concern about your child's safety.

6. **Check in regularly** with your child. Keep the conversation going. It can take time to resolve issues, so check in regularly with your child about their experiences and their feelings. Your ongoing support is important.
The Arts
Arts Lessons: In 2016, every student at Southbrook Central State School will have the opportunity to learn Music, Dance, Visual Arts and Drama. Rather than weekly Music lessons, students will each participate in a 60-minute ‘Arts’ lesson which – during the year – will provide learning experiences in all four subjects. The first four weeks of term one will be focussed on Visual Arts.

CGEN: Students who have nominated to participate in this year’s Creative Generation – State Schools Onstage will be required to attend rehearsals with the Pittsworth Cluster participants every Tuesday morning.

Homework Club is back with Ms Holmes!
Commencing week 3—Mondays & Thursdays—3:00pm to 3:30pm
If you would like your child/ren to attend, please send a note along.
Ms. Holmes

Pittsworth Cluster Choir Camp
This year I am very proud to host the second annual three-day Pittsworth Cluster Choir Camp (Wednesday 16 March – Friday 18 March). The event will be held at the Pittsworth Function Centre and the Pittsworth Town Hall and will feature 48 students from six local primary schools ... Pittsworth, Biddeston, Mt Tyson, Brookstead, Southbrook and Greenmount.

As co-ordinator of the Choir Camp, I invite you to share in an exciting three days of making amazing choral music. With support from local teachers and volunteers, we will be rehearsing massed choir songs as well as working with smaller workshop groups to prepare items for our concert on Friday, 18 March (commencing at 7.00pm in the Pittsworth Town Hall).

This is a unique event – something which has never been offered to our primary school students. The Choir Camp offers selected students the opportunity to spend time singing and performing with other talented young singers.

You are very welcome to visit the Choir Camp to see what’s happening over the three days, and to attend our concert (for only a gold coin donation).

I look forward to seeing you there!

Beth Wheeldon
Co-ordinator and Conductor

CHOIR CAMP 16th—18th March 2016
Southbrook Students, Caitlin Stace, Tyla Whitbread, Otto Friedrichs, Reagan Collin, Jessie Friedrichs, Frances Cattle, Alice Train and Darius Gordon will be attending Choir Camp.
Reminders and Notices

Southbrook School Dress Code

We encourage all students to wear our smart school uniform every day. Student dress codes provide clothing that aims to contribute to a safe and supportive teaching and learning environment through:

⇒ Easy identification of students;
⇒ Fostering a sense of belonging; and
⇒ Developing mutual respect among students by minimising visible evidence of economic and social differences.

Southbrook Possums Playgroup

We meet at the Southbrook Sports Grounds every Monday between 10am and 12 and welcome any new members with children aged from birth to 5 (prior to starting prep). Playgroup is a place for you and your child to interact with other parents/caregivers and their children, providing opportunities for play and learning. Playgroup also develops new skills and helps gain confidence by interacting with other children. Lots of activities are planned this term, including a visit from the local health nurse and a visit to the Southbrook School.

Please contact Kerrie on 0409055679 for further details.

Morning Arrival Times for School

A reminder that students should not be at school before 8.30am unless previously organised with your child’s teacher/school staff.

For the safety of your children, please remember there is no supervision provided for students before 8.30am and before the buses arrive at school.

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.
This week, we were visited by the Southbrook Playgroup and it was a fun morning of Easter based activities. We have been busy baking and decorating cakes for the Election Cake Stall - this has been part of our technology assessment with students having to plan their design of how to decorate a cake. We also celebrated St Patrick’s Day with our usual fun - apple bobbing and maybe green doughnut eating???? We should have some great photos to share.

Thank you to all the parents/carers who took the time to come for an interview and discuss your child’s progress. If you have any questions, feel free to come and ask.

Preps are Ripper Readers….

In class, we have continued with our ‘Me’ mobiles and consolidated this term’s learning with some practise activities. We are hoping to finish them before the holidays.

With only one more week to go, I take this opportunity to wish you all a Happy and Holy Easter and we look forward to seeing you all again on Monday April 11th.

Happy Easter
Jude, Maree and Lou

PS: Frozies available each Friday—50 cents

Don’t forget: Home Literacy Folders need to be changed on Fridays…….
The value for weeks 8 and 9 is . COURAGE. COURAGE is knowing what is right and acting upon it. Be positive. Believe in yourself and have ago. Be truthful and make good choices. Ask for help. Eat your own food.

Below are the processes around our PBL reward system at Southbrook Central

- We have fortnightly focus on one of the 5 values throughout each term
- Coloured Pentagon tokens are given anytime, anywhere to acknowledge any good efforts/behaviours that demonstrate any of the 5 school values. Eg. Student continues reading over holidays and records this in reading diary, the teacher would reward that student with a “Commitment” pentagon for demonstrating commitment to learning.
- The focus value for the fortnight will attract double rewards of that particular token.
- Students collect all pentagon tokens and save these to trade for vouchers sold at the V-Shop.
- Vouchers range from 25, 50, 75, 100, 150, 200, 250 pentagon tokens thus allowing regular reward for students who need this and also allow students to ‘save’ for a more significant voucher reward.
- Participation in end of term Golden Pentagon Celebration day — Students participate upon receiving an invitation. Students excluded from receiving an invitation will have behaviour records in One School for that term. These records are produced through our current behaviour slips/data collection methods which are aligned to our Behaviour matrix consequences. Criteria for which students are excluded from the Golden Pentagon day will be - three or more minor behaviour breaches or one major behaviour breach. This will result in that student not receiving their invitation to attend the golden pentagon reward day and instead, work on goals for next term.
- 3-6 Classroom daily point systems will result in the reward of a pentagon every time students reach 5 points. Pentagons are given at the end of the day. Classroom Jobs in the 3-6 class are categorised under the school values and will be paid in pentagons at the end of the week.
- ‘Student of the week’ rewards continue to be selected by the teacher and will result in a pentagon token reward as well as a certificate during assembly.
- Reading awards will attract a Commitment pentagon every time a student reaches the milestones outlined in their reading diaries. Number fact and spelling post test results will result in a pentagon reward when achieving set target scores.

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More Items of Interest and Reminders

**Uniform Shop Information**

New and used uniforms are readily available from our Uniform Shop. If the normal uniform shop day of Tuesday does not suit, please contact Kirsty Brown on her mobile number to arrange alternative times. Cheers, Kirsty. 0448170049

**Help Needed—TUCKSHOP**

We are still needing volunteers to help on Thursday during the day. If you can help, please call Amy 0400910252 or Kerrie 0409055679.

Each week we need some homebake for our Tuckshop. If you are able to help in any way, please see or call Amy or Kerrie.

Thanks again for the support.

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**Parenting Advice by Michael Grose**

Children who are able to form friendships when they start school are happier at school and also learn better. More significantly, positive friendships have long-term implications for social and indirectly academic success.

Friendships skills are generally developmental, but they don’t develop in isolation. Kids acquire these skills when they play with their siblings and interact with children and adults outside their family. Parents can help kids develop important social competencies by teaching them sociable behaviours at home, being good role models and providing opportunities for kids to play with each other in a variety of situations.

Here are 3 important social skills to help children to develop:

1. **Ask for what you want**

   Help children ask for what they want. It means they don’t throw tantrums, whinge, and sulk or expect parents to guess what’s on their minds. While we need to be patient with toddlers, we need also to give older children the chance and opportunity to ask for what they want. Sometimes we need to ignore shrugs and grunts and expect them to articulate their wishes. This is the basis of civil behaviour, as well as a basic human skill.

2. **Sharing**

   Sharing is a basic social skill. Developmentally, very young children like to keep their possessions themselves. As they get older and move into Pre School and beyond the notion of sharing becomes a pre-requisite for playing with and forming relationships with others. Other children like to play and be with those who share their time, possessions and space with them. Sharing is the start of empathy as it shows sensitivity to other people’s feelings.

3. **Holding a conversation**

   Holding conversations with others is a lifetime friendship skill. Conversations require self-disclosure, which can be challenging for some children. Good conversationalists give of themselves, but also take an interest in the person they are talking to. Many children forget that good conversations are two-way events, and tend to focus solely on themselves. Children within conversations need to learn to ask good or interesting questions; to take turns when speaking and to show you are listening by making eye contact and not interrupting. As parents we often focus on the development of children’s academic skills and quite easily neglect the development of important social skills, which contribute so much to children’s happiness and well-being.
Students - Week 7
8th March

Congratulations to Chelsea Train, Darius Gordon and Alice Train who received their Homework Reading Certificates on Parade.

Students of the Week
15th March

Congratulations to (B-Row) Logan Stace, Eric Lovell, Harry Marchant, Sam McGinn, Sophie Basham, Matilda Collin, Reagan Collin.
(F-Row) - Frankie Pile, Lochlan Swenson, Cooper Swenson, Samantha Mengel, Emma Scobie and Shelaye McNab for their Homework Reading.

Wishing everyone a safe and Happy Easter !!!!!!! Ms. Holmes

Chaplains have been providing social, emotional and spiritual support in schools for 25 years, and local Churches took this upon themselves to fund. With the growth of Chaplaincy, in 2008 the government stepped in and allocated approx $10,000/year for a 1-day a week Chaplain. Today – the government still give the same amount even though wages have increased. It actually costs approx $12,000/year now. This means – each and every year money has to come from somewhere to ‘fill the gap’. Where does this money come from? Your LCC (Local Chaplaincy Committee)! We meet once a month – along with 2 other local Chaplains and a few members – and we report on happenings in our schools – and we fundraise. This term - we have been selling soft drinks/choc’s/sausage sizzles at Pittsworth Basketball Stadium, and we manned the gates on Saturday at the Pittsworth Show. If there is anyone who ever wants to volunteer/support with these functions, come and see me – we’d love to have some extra hands!

On a side note - I would like to encourage you, to listen to your kids/grandkids read regularly! As an older Mum myself, I know that the benefits of this are far reaching. We need to be able to read to function well in the world – and the best way is to listen to our kids read – ask questions – make it fun and make it interesting! I leave you with words of wisdom from Dr. Seuss “The more you read, the more things you will know. The more you learn, the more places you’ll go”!

Have a great break over Easter and I look forward to seeing you again in April.
Karen—Chaplain

CONGRATULATIONS to Southbrook School’s budding young artists. The students showed their paintings they entered in the Pittsworth Show, on Parade.
Southbrook Central State School  Cross Country
After a shower of rain the 2016 Cross Country commenced.

Superstars versus Goldstars

Congratulations to all Students !!!!!!!!