Dates to Remember

23rd-27th—Mrs Simpson on leave
24th March-2nd April—Mrs Ferguson on LSL
25th/26th/27th March- Music Camp
26th/27th Emu Gully Leadership Camp
31st March—Pentagon Reward Day
1st April—Southbrook Cross Country
1st & 2nd April—Mrs Simpson at Regional Training
2nd April—Netball Carnival
2nd April—Last day of Term 1

TERM 2

20th April SCSS Rossvale Cross Country practice
22nd April: Rossvale Cross Country Trials
25th April: ANZAC Day
March, Pittsworth
30th April: P&C Meeting

Student Awards:
10th March
Darcy Brown
Matilda Collin

17th March
Akayla Brown
Darius Gordon
Malachi Garratt
Zane Friedrichs
Vogue Frank
Harry Marchant
Georgina Roberts
Sam McGinn

FROM THE PRINCIPAL’S DESK

My big thank you to you, our parents for all that you do towards building the understanding of the value of education into your child. Education opens many doors throughout life and is central to a successful and happy life. Below is a section of an extract, given in a little more detail further in this Newsletter. It is an article recently published in the Queensland College of Teachers Research Digest. Number 10, 2014. This Digest is produced by the Australian Council for Educational Research (ACER)

Parent/School Relationships

Research demonstrates that effective schools have high levels of parental and community involvement. This involvement is strongly related to improved student learning, attendance and behaviour...and can have a major impact on student learning, regardless of the social or cultural background of the family. Family involvement in schools is therefore central to high quality education and is part of the core business of schools...

School Strategic Plan – Priority 2. Numeracy

Teachers have been involved in a program to improve mathematics over this term in the form of professional development. The philosophy around last week’s PD about the ‘Back to Front’ approach is based on student problem solving. However, the problem solving is not what we might think of as traditional problem solving. The approach works on student mathematical misconceptions where the teacher, through clever questioning, lead students to check and very often, come to the realisation that their ideas and understandings are not correct about a particular mathematical concept. This approach is used specifically in the Number strand. Once students realise that they thought correct, in fact incorrect, then the teacher is able to help the students to use the correct concept. As a result, students are very excited to help teachers to understand the toolbox of mathematical programs and pedagogies already in place.

Principal Movements Week 9 and 10

As you are already aware, I am absent from school in week 9. I take this opportunity to thank parents and staff for their well wishes. I truly appreciate your thoughts. I return in week 10 which is the final week for the term. The last two days of week 10, ie, Wednesday and Thursday, I am attending Regional training —Module 4. This professional development is around our school priority of Numeracy. It will provide the last element of our mathematical program. Teachers who achieve qualifying times will take a special assembly to award Golden Pentagons. Invitation letters and consent sent home and due back the next day.

Extra Curricular Activities Weeks 9-10

Students will be quite busy over these last two weeks of school with many extra curricular activities organised. You will find attached to this Newsletter, a number of information letters and consent forms. Please check the ‘due back at school’ dates to allow time for teachers to ensure all is well organised.

Week 9

Wednesday 25th, Thursday 26th and Friday 27th March—Choir Camp.

Thursday 26th and Friday 27th March—Emu Gully Camp. Final detail and consent/medical forms are due back at school. These are necessary in order to attend in this program.

Other Information

Julie Rice will be teaching grades 3-6 Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday morning and accompanying the year 5-6 to Emu Gully Camp on Thursday and Friday. The remaining year 3-4 students, not attending Choir Camp, will be in the P-2 class.

Week 10

Monday 30th March—Special Assembly to award Golden Pentagons. Invitation letters and consent sent home and due back the next day.


Wednesday afternoon, 1st April—SCSS intraschool Cross Country. Students who achieve qualifying times will take a note home for participation in Rossvale cross country trials.

Thursday 2nd April: P-6 Netball Gala Day. Notes included in this Newsletter. Please note the ‘due back at school’ date.

National Playgroup Week

From 23 to 27 March, communities all around Queensland will celebrate National Playgroup Week. There are free family events planned across the state and we, at Southbrook Central play host to our community playgroup, thanks to Jude Nistor and others in helping to organise this.

Long Service Leave

Lou Ferguson will be on Long Service Leave from 24th March until 2nd April. Thank you Sasha Collin for stepping in to the Library and other duties while Lou is away.

Final Newsletter

This will be the last Newsletter of the term due to the final week being short and so much happening. I will continue to send email to keep you up to date. If you have any special messages that need to be sent out, I can be contacted via email or if they are updates or alerts, please see Maree Andrews who looks after our school Facebook account. Please also take note of the activities noted in the ‘Dates to Remember’ column above to ensure you’re aware of the events in the first couple of weeks of Term 2.

Have a great couple of weeks, everyone.

Warm regards,

Terri-Anne
Mrs Simpson, Mrs Rice’s & Ms Holmes’ Spectacular 3,4,5&6’s!

Year 5 Maths
Students in year five are currently using various mental computations to solve two and three digit multiplication problems.

Year 6 Maths
Students in year six have been exploring equivalent fractions and are now moving on to adding and subtracting fractions.

Year 3/4 History
Students have been learning about Vasco De Gama and the significance of his exploration.

Year 5/6 History
These students have been learning about Henry Parkes, the father of federation and his incredible contributions to Australian federation.

Year 3–6 Science
Students have set up a fair test involving three bean plants and designated students have been nurturing and monitoring them over the past two weeks. A fair test requires there to be just one variable—all other conditions must be the same. One plant was left in the soil, one was planted into gravel and one was planted into cotton wool—this is the variable—everything else was the same including where they were placed and the amount of water they received each day.

Mrs Simpson

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

The term is flying by with only two weeks to go as we head towards the Easter break. This week we participated in National Day Against Bullying.

We are trialling a new initiative in the classroom with the earning of gold coins and star pentagons—these are earned for positive behaviours and have links to the 5 C’s. Ask your children about it.

The Preps have continued their alphabet learning with a variety of different activities, developed a book around the word ‘look’, explored doing words (verbs) in ‘The Hungry Giant’ and continued with patterning, exploring number facts to 5 and working on picture differentiation to find the one that does not belong. In between all that, they are continuing their journey of social skilling and transitioning into school life.

Year 1’s and Year 2’s have been busy learning how to hear the sounds in words, writing innovative nursery rhymes and factual descriptions on Australian animals. It is a slow and steady process. Hopefully, we will have them finished by the end of term. For maths, we have been looking at number lines and numbers to 100 and over the hundred. We have looked at time and telling the time. For the Year 1’s, we have looked at o’clock and half past and for the Year 2’s we have looked at o’clock, half past and quarter past and to.

For science, we have been growing bean seeds and recording their growth on our observation sheet. Some of our seeds have grown very well with the tallest being 34 centimetres and for those that have forgotten to water them—no growth at all. We have looked at the simple parts of a plant and discussed their special features. Our buddy plants—peas, beans, sunflowers and pansies—are growing nicely in their soil beds. The students are watching them grow and which of the seeds was first to germinate.

Please make sure you return your interview form that was sent home last week if you would like an interview to discuss your child’s progress. I hope to have times out on Wednesday after I have marked the homework.

Cheers, Jude, Maree and Lou.

Frozies continue this Friday - 50c each.

(Next Friday March 27th will be the last Frozie Friday for the term)
Reminders and Information

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.

Parent/School Relationships

The following extract is from Queensland College of Teachers Research Digest. Number 10, 2014. This Digest is produced by the Australian Council for Educational Research (ACER)

Importantly, the power of parental engagement overrides other factors that have been shown to influence a child’s achievement. For example, when parents are actively engaged in their children’s learning, their influence appears to outweigh factors such as parental education, socio-economic background or the quality of the child’s schooling (Henderson & Mapp, 2002; Desforges & Abouchaar, 2003; Melhuish et al., 2008; Mansour & Martin, 2009; Hattie, 2009; Goodall et al., 2011).

Although many parents strive to become involved in school-based activities (or feel guilty because they cannot), and many schools focus on ways of involving ‘hard to reach’ parents in such activities, the research suggests that it is what parents do at home that really counts.

Parents have the most influence on their children’s educational outcomes when they:

- have high expectations for their children,
- show interest in their children’s learning and development,
- talk to them about things that interest them,
- discuss their children’s educational and career aspirations.

Desforges and Abouchaar (2003) label this ‘good at-home parenting’. Hill and Tyson (2009) call it ‘academic socialisation’, and Houtenville and Conway (2007) refer to it as ‘dinnertime’ effort. Even though parents may not be actively involved with their child’s school, they may well be supportive of what teachers are doing, taking an active interest in what their children are learning in school and helping them relate this to the world beyond school. In families where at least one parent or significant adult is engaged in this way, children are more likely to be motivated to learn, to see the school in a positive light and to enjoy productive relationships with their teachers (Kraft & Dougherty, 2013).

Religious Instruction purchase of ‘Connect’ Books

Parents of students who attend RI lessons are due to pay the contribution for the purchase of connect lesson books for semester 1 please. These books are $2.60. It would appreciated if payment is sent into the school as soon as possible.

The RI teachers provide lessons on Tuesday afternoon from 2.30-3.00pm. Please remember, 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.

Students receive their extra Pentagon for COURTESY on Parade. CONGRATULATIONS!!!!!
The value for this fortnight is COURAGE. COURAGE is knowing what is right and acting upon it. Being positive. Believe in yourself and have a go. Be truthful and make good choices. Ask for help.

Southbrook Central’s 5C’s — Values

**Consideration**
- Thinking about others

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

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

**Commitment**
- Always doing my best

**Courtesy**
- Using manners in all situations

---

Southbrook Central School Priorities for 2015

| ⇒ Reading  | ⇒ Engage with the Community |
| ⇒ Numeracy | ⇒ Positive Behaviour Management |
| ⇒ Transition | ⇒ School Wide Curriculum, Teaching and Learning |
| ⇒ Attendance |

---

Southbrook Central’s 5C’s — Values

**Consideration**
- Thinking about others

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

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

**Commitment**
- Always doing my best

**Courtesy**
- Using manners in all situations

---

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.

---

Southbrook Central School Priorities for 2015

| ⇒ Reading  | ⇒ Engage with the Community |
| ⇒ Numeracy | ⇒ Positive Behaviour Management |
| ⇒ Transition | ⇒ School Wide Curriculum, Teaching and Learning |
| ⇒ Attendance |

---

Thanks to all those students who turned up for orienteering last Thursday. It was a great afternoon and the students were engaged and challenged.

**Watch this space.......**

Sporting Schools is coming in Term 3 to replace Active After School.

Mrs Nestor

---

NEW BOOK CLUB
COORDINATOR
Mrs Jodie Berghauser-Mobile—0409055679

---

School Banking

It is great to see so many regular bankers starting to use the School Banking service. Already this term, some children have earned prizes and certificates for their deposits.

The school receives a commission and the total for 2014 was $100.

New accounts are always welcome.

Mrs Andrews

---

PITTSWORTH AMATEUR BASKETBALL INC.

Game times for Under 11’s & 14’s are 30min earlier.

For more information please read Pittsworth Sentinel ‘18th of March’
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**

16/03/2015

Our last meeting was held on the 12th March. We had a great roll up of members and covered a lot of topics. It was great to see so many new and old faces around the table. Thank you for your time and support.

A couple of important events we have coming up are the **Bunnings Sausage Sizzle on Monday the 6th April**, we have started to fill a roster, but still have a few spots to fill. Please consider helping out, as you lighten the work load for others, and I am sure you will actually enjoy yourself..... until you have cooked sausages at a Bunnings Sausage Sizzle around lunch time.......you have not cooked sausages!!!!

The other event is a Damper Stall at the **Felton Fine Food Festival**, we feel greatly privileged to be a part of something so local and so big..... It really is worth a visit. This event will take place on the 12th April. If you would like to help at this event, please see me as soon as possible or contact my mobile, I am sure our roster spots will fill quickly for this event. Not only are we doing Damper, we are also running a seedling stall for the children, these funds will be used for camp, and we will still need help.

We are also conducting an Easter Raffle, a flyer went home with the last news letter asking for donations toward our prize, a huge thank you to those who have already sent their yummies in. Tickets will be attached to this news letter, if all sold ticket with money and unsold tickets could be returned by **Wednesday, 1st of April**.

Thanks for your time to read this, please help out if you are able, as many hands make light work (my favorite saying). Remember all funds we raise are used to improve the learning environment for our children.

For any further information, or putting your name down to help, please contact

**Peta Lovell - 0409 898 485**
More Items of Interest and Reminders

FROM THE UNIFORM SHOP

The uniform shop is further reducing the sale price of current unisex basketball shorts. You can now buy these for $9 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

A big Thank you to Jenny and Jodie for the home baking they have done to help us out in the Tuckshop! Much Appreciated! A big Thanks to Lucy, Leigh,, Shelley, Sacha, Bev and Julie for helping us also!
We also regret not being able to get the snack potato pies anymore—they have stopped making them.
The Rock It Cans have all sold out now, so please no more orders! Remember we still have the Ice Teas on Special for $1 ... these are a refreshing drink!

CONGRATULATIONS !!
Eric and Maxine Lovell participated in Orienteering at Mt Peel on Sunday 14th March. Maxine is now planning to compete at the Darling Downs Orienteering Competition.

Family and Child Connect

Every family needs a little help now & then. When friends and family are unavailable, it can be hard to know who to call for support. That’s where Family & Child Connect can help.

Funded by the Queensland Government, Family and Child Connect is a brand new community-based service designed specifically to listen to you and help you to connect with the right supports at the right time. In South West Queensland the service is provided jointly by Mercy Community Services & Lifeline Darling Downs & SW Queensland Ltd at three different sites; in Toowoomba, Roma and Charleville.

Whether you are a parent, a young person, a concerned friend, neighbour or professional, if you are looking for information and advice on how you can best help yourself or someone else, you can call or drop into Family & Child Connect and speak to a real person about how to get the right assistance.

Family & Child Connect’s friendly, professional staff know all about the people and services in your area and how they can help with any challenge a family might be facing. They can provide you with information about these supports and in some cases can even introduce you to them. If you are worried about a family other than your own they can help you with ideas of how you might be able to reach out and provide some personal support to them. At the moment this service is available throughout South West Queensland. If you would like to speak with us it is as simple as picking
Students of the week—10th March

Darcy Brown, Matilda Collin, Otto Friedrichs, Caitlin Stace, Alice Train and Reagan Collin receive their 25 Nights of Home Reading Award for on Parade.

Maths with Ms Holmes

Year 3 Students Alice Train, Jessie Friedrichs, Darcy Brown and Reagan Collin working hard doing Subtraction cards.

Thank you Debbie Neale, who produced this snapshot banner depicting Southbrook Central State School. If you look closely, you can see many of the things that make our school and community special. From our beautiful, historical school building, to the bottle trees and sporting equipment community elements, student interests and, of course our key curriculum areas. All these items together, successfully depict the SCSS’s love of learning in so many areas.

You will see this banner being used in many ways. One of those, when the time is right, will be the repainting of our undercover area wall. That will certainly brighten the area up!

Students of the week—3rd March

Darling Downs Softball Trials
Otto Friedrichs and Chaz McNab who participated in the two day Trials. Well Done !!!