From the Principal

Families and Friends of the Port Curtis Road State School Community

School Leader Presentation
Our senior students presented their speeches yesterday at our special parade. They all did a fantastic job and I was very proud of the quality of the speeches. It is a very daunting process and even though the students were very nervous they spoke very well. Thanks very much to all the parents, friends and family who attended it shows us how much you care and that it is important to you.
The Badge Ceremony will be held at 12.00 next Monday. Parents are invited. Tiny Clark (RSL) will also be attending. Senior Shirts will be available in about 2 weeks.

Attendance
Every Day Counts!
Good attendance and success go hand in hand. Research shows that students who have a good attendance record are more likely to achieve high results. Students are to attend school on every official school day gazetted by Education Queensland unless the student is ill or special circumstances prevent the student from attending. Students must be in attendance up to and including the last day of each term. Ideally students should have an attendance rate of between 90 and 100% for each Semester.

- Missing 1 day per week = 40 days per year = 8 weeks per year
- Missing 1 day per fortnight = 20 days per year = 4 weeks per year
- Missing 2 days per week = 80 days per year = 16 weeks per year

Low attendance rates can lead to poor numeracy and literacy skills as well as students experiencing greater difficulty gaining employment. Students with lower than 90% attendance may also not be able to participate in special school events. Parents are asked to work with the school to make attendance a priority by not arranging appointments, birthday celebrations and family holidays for during school hours. There will be times where there are extenuating circumstances (eg prolonged sickness, sporting or cultural opportunities overseas, family emergencies) and absences cannot be helped. During these times the school is always happy to make specific arrangements with parents in relation to their child’s education. If students are going to be absent for more than 10 school days a parent/guardian must apply to the Principal for an exemption from schooling. Application forms are available from the office.
It can be difficult to get teenagers to attend school. There are resources available to parents to assist in getting students to attend school including: Department of Education, Training and Employment website [www.education.qld.gov.au/everydaycounts](http://www.education.qld.gov.au/everydaycounts)

Parents are required to let the school know the reason for the absence by 9.30am or within two days of their child’s return to school. This can be done by ringing the school, sending a note with your child or sending an email to the school. (Notes are attached for your use)

**Attendance Rates for each class last week:**
- Prep: 98.6%
- Year 1: 94.1%
- Year 2: 100%
- Year 3: 70%
- Year 4: 80%
- Year 5: 91%
- Year 6: 76%

The Department’s benchmark for attendance is 94% or above.

**Arts Council**
If you would like your child to attend the performance next Tuesday 17th February can you please return the permission envelopes and money to the office. These envelopes were sent home last week?

**P & C News**
**Movie Night**
Friday 13 February 5.00pm – 8.30pm in the library.
Access will be from the gate at the back of the school

Parents will be asked to sign in & out their child. Mrs Emmert and staff will be supervising the students.

The movie is for students of our school.

**Cost:** $10 each which includes Pizza x 2 slices (H & P, Meat-lovers, Cheese, Pepperoni), a drink, popcorn (at interval) and an ice-block when finished.
Extra slices of pizza can be purchased for $1.50 each.

**Raffle:**
Accommodation to Ashmore Palms Holiday Village on the Gold Coast
8 x $200 Vouchers 9 x $50 Vouchers

$1 a ticket. Tickets need to be returned by 6 March, 2015

**Smoking Ban**
From 1 January 2015, smoking is banned at all Queensland state and non-state schools, and for 5 metres beyond their boundaries.
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.

Have a great week
Take Care

Julianne Emmert
Principal

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**PLAYGROUP**
**TERM 1, 2015**
**WEEK 3 - 12th February**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>TIME</th>
<th>ACTIVITY &amp; THEME – “Welcome”</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>9:15 - 9:30</td>
<td>Reading Corner/ Puzzles</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9:30 – 10:45</td>
<td>Craft – Paper Friends Chain</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Group Painting – Busy Bees</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Blot painting - Bees</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Playdough</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Lego play</td>
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<tr>
<td>10:45 – 11:00</td>
<td>Big Books</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11:00 – 11:15</td>
<td>Shared Books</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**WEEK 4 - 19th February**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>TIME</th>
<th>ACTIVITY &amp; THEME – “All about me”</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>9:15 – 9:30</td>
<td>Reading Corner/Puzzles</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9:30 – 10:45</td>
<td>Playdough</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Booklet – I Like …. Cutting and pasting from magazines</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Painting – Hand prints (Group friendship &amp; own – Placemat)</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Laminated Placemat – Trace name, Handprint, Stamps to decorate etc</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Construction blocks</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10:45 – 11:00</td>
<td>Big Books</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11:00 – 11:15</td>
<td>Shared Books</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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**BUILDING THE BLOCKS**
Every Thursday
(School Calendar)
9:00am to 11:00am
Multi-purpose Learning Area
Co-ordinator—Sharon West
(Teacher Aides PCSRSS)

Porty Playgroup is building the blocks for the future by providing a stimulating learning environment where children can play and discover together, whilst parents and carers develop friendship and support networks. Porty Playgroup is conducted by Teacher Aides with the assistance of parents and caregivers. A variety of activities are organized to meet the varying needs of all children.

Please bring an item for a shared morning tea (fruit cake, biscuits & cheese etc), tea and coffee provided.
A gold coin donation would be appreciated.

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Port Curtis Road State School
145 Port Curtis Road
Rockhampton Q 4700
Ph: 49223056
Principal: Mrs. Julianne Emmert
[www.portcurtaz.ee.edu.au](http://www.portcurtaz.ee.edu.au)
CLASSROOM NEWS

News from Year 2/3/4 classroom
Welcome to another wonderful week. The class has quickly settled into routines and are working well together. In Literacy CAFÉ have been working on the Accuracy strategy: Cross Checking. In the Daily 5: Word Work and Spelling; and Work on Writing. In Maths Café we have been practising M aths with Someone, M aths by M yself and Maths Writing. I have introduced the ‘7 steps to writing success’ with the class: step 1 – plan for success and step 2 – write a sizzling start.

Homework is handed out every Monday and needs to be returned finished on a Friday. I have noticed some homework returning but not completed. If for any reason your child is unable to complete homework, could you simply write a note into your child’s homework book stating the reason. If your child is away they can collect their homework from the homework box that is in the classroom.

Wonderful news! ‘Junior’ has arrived! I am sure that you will have noticed a large stone situated in front of the school. ‘Junior’ arrived late Friday afternoon. The stone is stage one in the building of our ANZAC Day M emorial Garden to Private J ames Hamilton Phillips 1380A who died fighting at Gallipoli. A HUGE thank you to Tim Stirrup-Woodnutt Quarry who donated the stone, truck and loader; Colin Bell Of Bell’s Plant Hire who donated the transporting of the stone and use of the ‘float’ to transport all the equipment; Norm Baxter and Tim for driving the truck, equipment and stone to Port Curtis Road State School and situating the stone so very carefully into its current (and final) position; Julie Baxter for her organisational skills and valued support. I greatly appreciate their time and effort in helping us to establish this memorial to Private James Hamilton Phillips. Stage 2 of the project involves creating a garden around the stone.

Until next newsletter...

Cheers
Irene Ingrey

Library News
Welcome back to another fantastic year in the library. All students require a waterproof library bag for their books. I have library bags on sale from $3-$5 each.

Library Lessons – All students are required to return their books each week on these days.

- Prep/1 – Wednesday
- Years 2/3/4 – Thursday
- Years 5/6 – Wednesday

The Library is open every lunchtime except Fridays, as we have swimming.

Regards
Mrs Cherrie Collins

News from Year 5/6 classroom
My focus this year is on well-being. This year the emphasis will be on learning how to set and make goals and how to have a balanced life work, rest and play. Homework this year is learning our spellings, tables and reading. This allows students to have time to do their chores or attend extra-curricular activities etc.

I am looking forward to working with our wonderful teacher aide Julie Baxter, who is doing a first class job of looking after our learning support program with Mrs Cross. Our learning support program is working very well and we have seen improvements in areas many children were struggling in.

Porty Guitar Club has begun today…It’s open to all and begins Tuesday 8.15am and then again at second lunch.

Congratulations to the year 6’s… 99% were at NMS in our practice NAPLAN tests. I am looking forward to working with your child this year.

Regards
Michael Peters
Welcome Porty Parents to a new year and welcome to the first issue of ‘CAFÉ Corner’. Our year is off to a great start and I am excited to share what the students at Port Curtis Road State School will be working on during our literacy (and numeracy) block this year. Research shows that good readers use a variety of strategies when successfully reading and comprehending a selection of text. At Port Curtis Road State School we feel it is not only important to teach these strategies, but to record them as a reference for readers in the classroom.

Our classrooms have a Literacy CAFÉ Menu board that contains strategies good readers use when reading because as readers we use the strategies we need at the time to help us successfully read and comprehend text.

What is CAFÉ?
CAFÉ is an acronym that stands for Comprehension, Accuracy, Fluency, and Expanding vocabulary. The CAFÉ menu is a collection of highly effective reading strategies that the students will be taught to use, to help them become better readers. They are organized into four headings:

- **Comprehension**: I understand what I read.
- **Accuracy**: I can read the words.
- **Fluency**: I can read accurately, with expression and I understand what I read.
- **Expanding Vocabulary**: I know, find, and use interesting words.

CAFÉ is a framework that includes goal-setting with students in individual conferences based on assessments, recording of goals on a whole-class board, developing small group instruction based on clusters of students with similar goals, and targeting whole-class instruction based on emerging student needs and one on one conferring.

These headings (CAFÉ) become our goals and reading strategies have been identified in each category and are used to provide timely differentiated instruction for every student. CAFÉ provides focused, intentional, differentiated instruction and a method for monitoring progress. CAFÉ provides the content to the Daily 5 structure, and helps ensure that our students will meet benchmarks. Each student has goals and strategies specific to his/her individual needs and therefore will get the direct instruction needed to move forward and become a successful reader.

The CAFÉ System is delivered through the structure and framework of the ‘Daily 5’, which builds behaviours of independence and stamina. The Daily Five is a way of structuring our literacy block so that every student is independently engaged in meaningful literacy tasks. Each day, students receive whole group reading strategy lessons. The students also work independently on one of the ‘Daily 5’ tasks for 15-20 minutes. During this time, teachers provide focused, intense instruction to individuals and small groups of students.

The Daily 5 is organized under the following headings:

- Read to Self
- Read to Someone
- Listen to Reading
- Word Work
- Work on Writing

In the first couple of weeks of this term we will be ‘launching’ the CAFÉ system and the ‘Daily 5’ starting with:

- Launching the CAFÉ system and the ‘Daily 5’
- Developing learning behaviours, building a sense of learning urgency and stamina, and independence.
- Comprehension strategy: Check for Understanding
- Accuracy strategy: Cross Checking

Each newsletter I will be informing you of the strategies that we are working on and providing suggestions for assisting your child at home called ‘Parent Pipeline’. Please look for the ‘CAFÉ Corner’ each newsletter throughout the year and support your child in his/her quest to become a better reader.

Cheers

Irene Ingrey
CAFÉ Strategy: Check for Understanding

Even as an adult reader, there are times when I am reading a story and I get lost and am not sure what has happened. Fortunately, when this happens, I have strategies I use to help me understand the story. The same thing happens when children read. However, with children they often keep reading and do not realize they lost comprehension until the end of the story. They are too concerned with reading accurately, and forget to take the time to think about what they are reading. How can we help them gain comprehension? We can teach them the comprehension strategy: check for understanding because good readers stop frequently to check for understanding or to ask who and what.

How can you help your child with this strategy at home?

1. When reading to your child, stop periodically and say, “Let’s see if we remember what I just read. Think about who the story was about and what happened.” Do this 3 or 4 times throughout the story.

2. When reading to your child, stop and have them practice checking for understanding by saying, “I heard you say...”

3. Ask your child the following questions:
   • Who did you just read about?
   • What just happened?
   • Was your brain talking to you while you read?
   • Do you understand what was read?
   • What do you do if you don’t remember?

Thank you for your continued support at home!

* Ideas and strategies are taken from: The CAFE Book, written by Gail Boushey & Joan Moser  
Created by Allison Behn © 2009 www.thedailycafe.com
CAFE Strategy: Cross Checking

When reading a book for pleasure or for information, chances are you will come to a word or two you are unsure of. You probably will use the accuracy strategy of cross checking without even thinking about it, because it is second nature to you as a reader to read accurately. Accuracy is not second nature to children learning to read. It is something that needs to be taught using a variety of strategies.

Your child has been introduced to the accuracy strategy of cross checking. It is important to slow readers down when they come to a word they don’t know and teach them to apply the strategy of cross checking so they are able to fix the meaning and not just skip the word. Cross checking requires a person to constantly think and monitor meaning. It is a strategy for ensuring the words and pictures read make sense and match the letters on a page.

How can you help your child with this strategy at home?

1. Listen to your child read. When he comes to a word he is unsure of, remind him to cross check. Ask:
   - Does the word you are reading match the picture or letters written? (they cross their right arm over their body)
   - Does it sound right? (their left arm crosses over their body making an X)
   - Does it make sense? (both arms come down with hands pointing to the ground)

*Doing physical movements with each question helps children to remember the questions.

2. If your child is having difficulty with this strategy at home, break down the process:
   - Have her stop reading when meaning breaks down.
   - Tell her to look at the letters and say the sounds or look for word chunks in words.
   - Remind her to use the pictures to help.

3. To make your child aware of using this strategy, give him a piece of paper and tell him to make a tally mark each time he uses the cross checking strategy.

Thank you for your continued support at home!

Ideas and strategies are taken from: The CAFE Book, written by Gail Boushey & Joan Moser
FOR SALE: Gracemere Little Athletics Shirt Size 6 and Hat for sale – please see the office.

Want a fun and exciting after school or weekend activity?

Take part in Surf Groms this term and Learn to Surf!

Surf Groms is a national program for 5-12 year olds and encourages kids to participate in the wonderful sport of surfing while beating the summer heat.

It is even more affordable this year with a great range of programs and times available. But the surfing goodies and the quality of the program haven’t diminished.

We have holiday, Saturday morning and after school programs.

To register please go to www.surfgroms.com

For enquiries phone Capricorn Coast Learn 2 Surf on 0488076595 or pateastwood@hotmail.com

Rockhampton Junior Tennis Association’s coaching ($12/lesson) and fixtures ($10 weekly) commence Saturday, January 31, from 8.00 – 11.00am.

Register any Saturday at Rockhampton Regional Tennis Centre, Victoria Park, or by phone on (07) 4927 1436.
School Banking every Thursday

The Commonwealth Bank School Banking program is here! The School Banking program includes an exciting Rewards Program designed to encourage children to get into the habit of making regular savings. Every time your child makes a deposit at school they receive a silver coloured Dollarmites token.

The first token will be received upon the first deposit at school. Once your child has individually saved 10 tokens they can redeem them for an exclusive Dollarmites reward item. Students will have lots of fun saving their tokens for these cool rewards items.

Taking part in School Banking is easy:
- You can get involved in the School Banking program by opening a Commonwealth Bank Youthsaver account at any Commonwealth Bank branch, over the phone on 13 2221, or via NetBank if you are an existing customer with NetBank access. Remember to take in identification for you and your child (driver's license and birth certificate). You will receive a Dollarmites wallet and deposit book that your child will use to participate in the program.
- If your child has an existing Commonwealth Bank Youthsaver account they can start banking straight away. They just need to bring their deposit in every week using their Dollarmites deposit wallet. If your child has misplaced their Dollarmites deposit book or deposit wallet, they can request a new one from either the local branch or contact the School Banking Co-ordinator Mrs West.

Fundraise for Fun:

About

For us Rescue Chopper Day is an opportunity to involve the community in assisting their local rescue chopper through an annual day of fundraising in a fun environment. To be held on October 21 this year, the day is all about putting the fun in fundraising as you help us raise the $3.6m needed each year to keep our vital life-saving service in the air and free to the people of Central Queensland.

Help us by:
- Wearing yellow and blue, dressing up, dressing up in any manner that creates a sea of yellow and blue around town.
- Registering to hold a fundraiser at your workplace, sporting group or school.
- Making a donation online or by donating on the day into one of our donation boxes across the region.

Get Involved

Rescue Chopper Day is for everyone young and not so young, it is the perfect day to express your individual style and wear your best and brightest yellow and blue clothing in support of our rescue service. Ask everyone to make a donation or even invite a friend on Rescue Chopper Day for those who don't get dressed in yellow and blue. You could even consider both!

There are so many ways to participate. Why not try:
- A bake off like cupcakes, muffins or cakes in blue and yellow colours.
- Colouring competitions.
- Submit your entry to the school or a local business.
- Raffles.
- Craft themed activities.
- Food outlets and coffee shops could donate an amount from each sale.
- Car dealerships – why not throw in $5 every time a new car is sold?
- Morning teas.
- Rattle the tin.
- Come up with your own creative idea or check out our Community Fundraising Guide.

Register your workplace, school, sporting group or club as a participant in Rescue Chopper Day and we will forward you an electronic registration pack to help get your day underway. The first 100 groups to register for Rescue Chopper Day will receive a “Party Pack” just to get you in the mood.

Like our Facebook page for updates closer to the event.

Register your workplace, school, sporting group or club as a participant in Rescue Chopper Day and we will forward you an electronic registration pack to help get your day underway. The first 100 groups to register for Rescue Chopper Day will receive a “Party Pack” just to get you in the mood.

Like our Facebook page for updates closer to the event.

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We send quarterly newsletters to our previous donors or any others who have provided their contact details to us.

Our mailing address is:
Capricorn Helicopter Rescue Service
1/5 East St
Rockhampton, QLD 4700
Australia

SECOND HAND UNIFORMS WANTED:
If you have any Porty uniforms that your child has grown out of and would be suitable for sale as a second-hand uniform—please bring them into the office, washed and folded ready for sale. We have parents asking regularly.
ABSENT NOTES: For your assistance we have attached an absent note for your use should your child be away from school. Please complete either prior to the event and the follow day your child is absent.

To the Principal and Classroom Teacher

……………………………………………. was / will be absent on ……………………………

(Please print student’s name) (Please insert date student was absent)

due to (insert reason)…………………………………………………………………………………………………………………..

Signed: ……………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………

Name: ……………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………

(Please print name)

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