



# PORT CURTIS ROAD COURIER

A fortnightly communication between home and the school community

PRINCIPAL: Mrs Susan Thaw

Email: [principal@portcurtss.eq.edu.au](mailto:principal@portcurtss.eq.edu.au)

Term 1 Week 9 - 21st March 2017

**Core Priorities:** Writing Attendance Wellbeing

**VALUE:** Every child matters every day!

Port Curtis Road State School acknowledges the traditional Dharumbal people on whose land it stands.

## 2017 Dates to Remember

**Term 1**  
23 January–31 March  
Australia Day  
Public Holiday—26 January

**Term 2**  
18 April–23 June  
Anzac Day  
Public Holiday—25 April

**Term 3**  
10 July–15 September

**Term 4**  
3 October–8 December  
Student Free Day 16 October

## Attendance Thermometer

100%  
99%  
98%  
97%  
96%  
95%  
94%  
93%  
92%  
91%

Wk 6 - 95.08%

Every Day is a Learning Day!

## P & C Association

Next Meeting  
21st March—5.30pm  
Classroom next to office

Your voice is needed  
Your ideas are valued  
You are important  
to our school community spirit.



## From the Principal

Families and Friends of the Port Curtis Road State School Community

### THE IMPORTANCE OF TALKING, READING AND SINGING.....

We all want to give our kids the best start right? The problem is, from the moment we become parents we're bombarded with different messages on how we do this.

But when we look to the evidence, it's clear there's one thing more important than anything else. And it may be simpler than you think... TALKING. Make talking with your child part of your daily routine, any time and any place.

Talking is closely followed by READING. Make reading with your child part of your daily routine.

Do you have a favourite book that has been loved so much it's falling apart? The corners are scuffed, the pages are torn and you and your child know exactly what's coming with each page turn? Some family favourites can even last for decades as they get passed down through the generations.

There's a good reason for this. Babies and young children learn and thrive from repetition and they seek it out.

Next time you share a well-loved book, watch what happens. Depending on the age of your child, they may make sounds in response to the story or fill in the words. They may let you know what's about to happen next or start little conversations about the pictures and the story. This is a great sign and with each reading, your child is learning more and more.

Whether it's the third or the thirtieth reading, each one will help your child understand, talk about, and be part of the story. Your child may notice new things or figure out an unfamiliar word by hearing it in the context of the story.

The other great thing about sharing the same book over and over, is the repeated exposure to unfamiliar things.

Queensland kids don't often play in wintry wonderlands but books can transport the family to different worlds, taking us on icy adventures where we can discover things that are outside our physical worlds – like igloos, polar bears and penguins. Books can expose city kids to life on the farm and country kids to the mind boggling bustle of the city. Opening your well-loved book and going there again and again will help your child make sense of an unfamiliar world and will help build language and knowledge about things outside their everyday life.

Some key points are:

1. Research shows that up to 90% of a child's brain development happens in the first 5 years.
2. Babies and children love sharing stories. It's never too early to talk, read and tell stories with your child.
3. Children learn best from the important people around them.
4. Sharing stories and rhymes, singing, talking and playing with your child is not just fun, but good for little brains too.

Your child learns best from you. Make talking, reading and singing with your child part of your daily routine - any time, any place.

First 5 Forever encourages parents and carers to talk, sing, play and read more with their young children for the proven and positive impacts these shared family experiences can have on early brain development, and later reading success.

This information and more about singing is available from the website [www.first5forever.org.au](http://www.first5forever.org.au)

Have a look at this website and watch the latest videos such as 'All the Little Moments Add Up'. There are also suggested activities that you as a parent can do with your child.

**Student Absences:** Every Day Matters—Every Day is a Learning Day. Please advise the school if your child is/or will be away.

**STUDENT LEADERS' INDUCTION**

Congratulations to all of the students who were inducted into Leadership roles last Monday. Thank you to all of the parents/ carers and invited guests: Councillor Drew Wickerson, Tiny and Lyn Clark and the RSL representatives, and Mrs Tanya Bleakley, Religious Instruction teacher who shared this memorable occasion with us. Following the ceremony, students, parents and guests were invited to a celebratory morning tea.

Our School Leaders for 2017 are:



<u>2017 School Leaders</u>	<i>Bindy Brannock</i>	<i>Tayleah Daniel</i>	
<u>2017 Student Council</u>			
<i>President</i> <i>Lincoln Newman</i>	<i>President Support</i> <i>Bindy Brannock</i>	<i>Secretary</i> <i>Jessie Neale</i>	<i>Secretary Support</i> <i>Tayleah Daniel</i>
<i>Treasurer</i> <i>Logan Smith</i>	<i>Assistant Treasurer</i> <i>Jaiden Ditroi</i>	<i>Fundraising Co-Ordinator</i> <i>Brianna Hill</i>	<i>Fundraising Support</i> <i>Bryce Leddy</i>
<u>2017 Jardine Sports Leaders</u>		<u>2017 Archer Sports Leaders</u>	

**P and C AGM**

The Annual General Meeting of the P and C of Port Curtis Road State School will be held on Tuesday 21 March at 5.30p.m. in the administration building. All executive committee positions will be declared vacant. Everyone is welcome to attend.

**TEACHER PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT**

Last week each one of our teachers was released from class for half a day to work with the Principle Education Advisor for the Australian Curriculum – Tiffany Hunter. Teachers were coached in how to use the Australian Curriculum for multi-age planning and explored the resources available through the Australian Curriculum and the resource, Curriculum into the Classroom.

**HARMONY DAY**

Tuesday 21 March is National Harmony Day. To celebrate this day we will be having a Food Fest at lunch time. Students will be able to savor foods from various countries. The countries which will be represented on the menu are: Italy, India, China, Vietnam and New Zealand. Children will not need to bring lunch on this day but will require afternoon tea. If your child does not wish to sample any of these foods then they will need to bring something to eat for both lunch and afternoon tea.

Orange is the colour chosen to represent Harmony Day. Traditionally, orange signifies social communication and meaningful conversations. It also relates to the freedom of ideas and encouragement of mutual respect. Students of Port Curtis Road State School are encouraged to wear something orange on 21 March to show their respect for cultural diversity and inclusive Australia.

Please do not go out and buy anything special for this occasion as all students will be presented with an orange Harmony Day ribbon pin, a bookmark and stickers.

## MEET and GREET

What a fantastic turnout for our Meet and Greet. Thank you to our little band of merry helpers who made the evening a success. Also thank you to the P and C for funding the evening. It was great to see so many of our families, staff and community partners enjoying a social occasion together.

## COMPUTER UPGRADES

An order has been placed to upgrade all of the computers within the library as well as purchase four additional computers so that there will be a pod of 16 new computers for our students to use. We have also purchased a new computer for the Library service desk as well. To assist with the purchasing of apps for our ipads and the downloading time of these, the school has also purchased a mini Mac server. Once the computers are all installed, then as a school, we will have focused lessons on developing the skills students require as outlined in the Australian Curriculum which will also enable our students to participate in a trial NAPLAN online in 2018.

## MATHEMATICS' RESOURCES

Over the term, we have conducted an audit on the mathematics' equipment that is within the school. As a result an order has been placed for many items, which support the Australian Curriculum and therefore will enhance the teaching of concepts and the learning engagement of our students. These resources will be the basic requirements for this learning area with the vision that each year we can purchase more to value add to these kits and class sets.

## STRINGS MUSIC PROGRAM

A conversation which I have had with several parents over my time here, as well as at a P and C meeting, is that in relation to an additional music program for students to learn how to play an instrument. To date, I have contacted schools where they employ someone to come in and teach for example the guitar, each term, and am also awaiting on names of other music teachers which I will then contact. I have mentioned the guitar, as the preferred instrument, as the school already has five of these, and it is around this instrument that I am doing the required research to present to staff and the community. There may not be a result with this before I leave, but I will pass on all of the information.

## BREAKFAST CLUB

Our new menu has not come in to play yet, as Hastings Deering are awaiting on suppliers to get back to them as to some of the new items that will be on offer. Thank you to the P and C who are continuing to support Breakfast Club each day. A huge thank you to all of our mums who are volunteering each morning for this. Our volunteers are asked to start serving breakfast around 8.30a.m. to align with when our students are supervised by staff, but are, however, asked to be present before this time to allow for food preparation.

## BAND 5 SCHOOLS' MODERATION

Port Curtis Road State School hosted a Moderation Day on Monday 20 March for the teaching staff of many of the Band 5 schools. You may ask, 'What is Moderation?' Moderation is a process that ensures *teachers' judgments of standards achieved by students are comparable* within and between schools. Teachers from the participating schools presented a collection of students' work which evidenced the Achievement Standard for that year level, which is a fixed reference point used to describe how well a student has achieved the content of the curriculum. This process ensures that across schools we are consistent in our judgements when assigning an academic grading and have a consensus across schools as to the required assessment task standard.

## FAREWELL AND THANK YOU

Next week will see my appointment at Port Curtis Road State School come to an end. Thank you to all of the staff, students, families and community partners for warmly welcoming me into your lives and community. You truly have a wonderful little hidden gem right here on the outskirts of Rockhampton. Thank you to all, for your support. Enjoy your Easter Vacation with your family and friends. HAPPY EASTER.

Take Care,  
Sue Thaw, Principal

## TERM 2 School commences Tuesday 18 April 2017.

Hi Port Curtis Road Community,

It was lovely to meet you all last week at your Meet and Greet BBQ. For those that I didn't meet, I have spent 7 years teaching around the Northern Territory before relocating to Rockhampton and working in a Regional Office role. I acted as the Teaching Principal of Wowan State School before taking up my current position at Prospect Creek State School. I am looking forward to continuing my leadership journey at Port Curtis Road, continuing the excellent work on pedagogy and writing that has already begun. I am very passionate about teaching and I look forward to spending as much time as possible in the classrooms, working with teachers and getting to know students. I look forward to working with each and every one of you; building positive partnerships, ensuring learning outcomes are improved for all students.

Regards  
Jo Northey

WEEK 7 AWARDS

## Attendance

Whole School average weekly attendance—93.74%

**Gotcha Awards** (students with highest number)

Prep / Year 1: AnnaBell Schunemann

Year 2 / 3: Wayne Jones

Year 4 / 5 / 6: Blake Mackenzie

Class with Most Gotchas: Year 4 / 5 / 6

WEEK 8 AWARDS

## Attendance

**100%** Year 5 and Year 6.

Whole School average weekly attendance—95.08%

**Principal's Award**

Prep / Year 1: Marcus Rodgers

Year 4 / 5 / 6: Logan Dingwall, Blake Mackenzie

**Bookwork Awards**

Prep / Year 1: Shiovon Osborne, Kayden Schunemann.

Year 4 / 5 / 6: Jessie Neale, Bindy Brannovk, Brianne Hill, Blake Mackenzie, Tayleah Daniel

**Gotcha Awards** (students with highest number)

Prep / Year 1: Ayla Corrie, Marcus Rodgers

Year 2 / 3: Shaniya Corrie

Year 4 / 5 / 6: Tayleah Daniel

Class with Most Gotchas: Year 2 / 3

## News from Prep Year 1 Classroom

A word on coding.

In this day and age, more so than ever before, our children are surrounded by technology in its various forms: smart phones, I pads, lap tops, game boys, Tablets – to name but a few. Experts suggest that future careers will largely be technology focussed; and true enough, we are certainly seeing that now.

The common element to all forms of technology that children are using almost daily is coding.

Put simply, coding is the process by which data is transformed into 'language' that is understood by a computer.

Educators believe that an early introduction to coding or basic programming can help students develop, expand upon and foster problem solving and critical thinking skills. To this end, students in the Prep Year One room have begun working with "Colby" the robotic mouse. Colby requires the students to program his movements through a basic maze in order that he navigate around certain obstacles to reach a piece of cheese. Students use their knowledge of directionality, sequencing, counting and problem solving in order to program a series of instructions that Colby then carries out. Once done, they then evaluate the degree to which their program of instructions was successful.

I have seen immense progress in terms of the children's ability to critically analyse their efforts, visualise the processes to be used and the degree to which they are able to collaborate in forming their instructions during the short time that we have been using Colby. I look forward to continued progress in this area.

John Collins

# PLAYGROUP

## WEEK 9 – 23<sup>rd</sup> March



TIME	ACTIVITY & THEME – EGGS
9:15 - 9:30	Reading Corner/ Puzzles
9:30 – 10:45	Story: Little Red Hen
	Dying hard boiled eggs
	Craft – Cut Out & Decorate Hens
	E for eggs- colouring in
10:45 – 11:00	Storytime-Big Books
11:00 – 11:15	Shared Morning Tea

## WEEK 10 – 30<sup>th</sup> March



TIME	ACTIVITY & THEME – Easter
9:00 - 9:30	Reading Corner/ Puzzles
9:30 – 10:45	Craft – Easter Bonnet
	Craft – Easter Baskets and Card
	Colouring in –Easter
	Playdough
	Easter Bonnet Parade and Egg Hunt
10:45 – 11:00	Storytime-Big Books
11:00 – 11:15	Shared Morning Tea

# 8 April 2017

# CAPRI CON

## Steampunk & Pop Culture Convention

 CapriConRockhampton

Rockhampton Regional Library  
11am - 4pm | FREE | All ages



For more details please call Rockhampton Regional Library on 4936 8043 or visit [www.rrc.qld.gov.au](http://www.rrc.qld.gov.au)

# SCHOOL HOLIDAY FUN

## ARCHER PARK RAIL MUSEUM

AD 1899

Ride the Purney Steam Tram and have a close look at the C17 Steam Loco.

Climb aboard restored passenger carriages. Change the signals, use the antique phones and other fun activities. Food on Sale

**Wednesday**  
**5th & 12th April 2017**  
**10am-1pm**

\$8.50 - Children (18 mths and over)  
One adult free per family.  
Extra adults \$5.00

Supported by  Managed by Friends of Archer Park Station and Steam Train Museum Inc.  
Archer Park Rail Museum - Denison St Rockhampton  
Phone: 4938 6191  
Email: [archerpark@bigpond.com](mailto:archerpark@bigpond.com)  
<http://www.qldraill heritage.com/archerpark/>

## TUCKSHOP

FRIDAY 31 <sup>st</sup> March 2017 <b>RED ROOSTER DAY</b>		 red rooster
<b>Orders must be in by 9am WEDNESDAY 29<sup>th</sup> March</b>		
NAME:	Year Level	
	Chicken Cheese Burger Chips Popper / Water / Milk	\$6.50
	Chicken Nuggets Chips Popper / Water / Milk	\$6.50
	Total	
<i>A Fresh Fruit Platter will be provided for all students at 2<sup>nd</sup> Break</i>		

FRIDAY 31 <sup>st</sup> March 2017 <b>RED ROOSTER DAY</b>		 red rooster
<b>Orders must be in by 9am WEDNESDAY 29<sup>th</sup> March</b>		
NAME:	Year Level	
	Chicken Cheese Burger Chips Popper / Water / Milk	\$6.50
	Chicken Nuggets Chips Popper / Water / Milk	\$6.50
	Total	
<i>A Fresh Fruit Platter will be provided for all students at 2<sup>nd</sup> Break</i>		

	<h1 style="margin: 0;">Port Curtis Road State School</h1> <h2 style="margin: 0;">Term 1 - 2017</h2>					BE Safe BE Responsible BE Respectful BE A Learner
	Week	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
6	27 Feb	28 Feb	1 March	2 March <b>Playgroup 9-11.15am</b>	3 March Swimming Yrs 1-6 Tuckshop	
7	6 March	7 March	8 March	9 March <b>Playgroup 9-11.15am</b> <b>Meet and Greet</b> 5.00-7.00pm	10 March Swimming Yrs 1-6	
8	13 March <b>Badge Presentation</b> 10.30am	14 March	15 March	16 March <b>Playgroup 9-11.15am</b>	17 March National Day of Action Against Bullying and Violence Swimming Yrs 1-6 Tuckshop	
9	20 March	21 March <b>Harmony Day</b> <b>P&amp;C Meeting 5.30pm</b>	22 March	23 March <b>Playgroup 9-11.15am</b>	24 March Swimming Yrs 1-6	
10	27 March	28 March <b>Return Raffle</b> <b>Tickets</b>	29 March	30 March <b>Playgroup 9-11.15am</b> <b>Easter Bonnet Parade /</b> <b>Raffle / Egg Hunt</b>	31 March Swimming Yrs 1-6 Tuckshop End Term 1	