



BRIGHTON STATE SCHOOL

Newsletter

28th May 2009

What an exciting BOP day we had on Tuesday!

Our Brighton Options Program (BOP) encourages students to participate in activities that are of interest to them. Children from years 1 - 7 participated in a wide range of activities including maths challenges; strategy games; chess tournaments; making musical instruments; science experiments; personal grooming; creating artistic masterpieces; cartooning; fitness and writing poetry.

Thanks to our wonderful P&C, all children had the opportunity to experience some Hands On Maths fun with exciting maths puzzles and games filling the hall. Our P&C subsidised this activity by contributing \$1000 towards the cost.





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From the Principal Patrick McAuliffe

Hello Everyone

Tuesday was a great Brighton Options Programme (BOP). The children had a huge variety of challenging activities that exercised all of their "Multiple Intelligences". Many thanks to our P&C for chipping in for the Hands On Math activity. That activity cost \$1500 and would usually be paid for by individual families at around \$5 a head. Obviously the teachers put a lot of extra work in to make the day happen, so many thanks all round!!

As you may be aware, a decision has been made at a national level to introduce a range of additional measures to reduce the spread on Influenza H1N1 09 (human swine flu). These measures are a response to the fact that Australia has moved from the Pandemic Influenza phase **Delay** to the current phase **Contain**. The key government objective of the **Contain** phase is to limit the spread of the virus. To help us meet government requirements please make sure that we have your most recent contacts! If you have changed mobile phones and changed your number please let us know.

Our middle school (years 4 and 5's) are involved in Literacy Training for the next 4 weeks. This is an initiative for all teachers and will eventually be rolled out for our teachers in the upper-school.

The NAPLAN results published in the news paper last Saturday was an attempt by the newspaper to make a "league table" out of averaged school test results. A good school is one that meets your child's needs!

Basically they are trying to say that the better the average, the better the school. That's like saying the taller the class average height is, the taller the kids are. That is true, but it doesn't alter the individual height of each child! Also State schools have 98% of all special education students so schools with special education classes or units will have a lower average.

Our school has had students who have gone on to local State High Schools and achieved OPI's. We have had special needs kids get to first year uni through the great work done by us, the kids' parents and the dedication of our local State High Schools' teachers.

As a parent, I don't pay attention to that data reported in the paper, I look at my children and then look for a school that best meets my kids' needs.

IMPORTANT - PICK UP TIMES – would parents please remind their children the plan if you are going to be late. The Office is open until 3.45pm and children can come up and let us know if you haven't arrived.

Sometimes parents phone the office close to the end of day and it is not always possible to get messages to classes, we try our very best but sometimes mistakes happen. So we need your help with letting your child know before school what the pick up plans will be and in the case when parents are late – what the plan is!

Just a thought - Don't forget there is always JABIRU, safe and happy environment for your child to wait to be collected and they also serve a yummy afternoon tea!



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FAMILY DETAILS – is your EMERGENCY CONTACT DETAILS UP TO DATE?????????

We have had many cases lately where we have had trouble getting in contact with families as they have incorrect contact details. Please drop Judy an email or write out your changes and leave at the office. Judy's email address is jimear5@eq.edu.au (number 5).

Bramble Bay Cross Country: Well done to all the Brighton students who braved the very muddy and wet St. Paul's course on Monday! Our students represented our school very proudly against the 22 other schools in the District. Congratulations to Matt Kalinowski who placed 4th in the 13 years boys age group. He will compete again next Tuesday in the Met. North Regional Cross Country Championships.

Kerry's Corner – Brighton Learning Support Teacher



In Pursuit of Happiness

Happiness - a state of mind or feeling such as contentment, satisfaction, pleasure, or [joy](#).^{Wikipedia}

As human beings we all want to feel happy and not just every now and then. If we had our way we would probably give sadness a miss altogether. In our search for happiness we are often led to believe that if we owned more, bought more, achieved more or won more we would find happiness, but is it found in spending, accumulating or competing with others? Sadly we may give our children the impression that happiness is something you can buy or conquer, or even worse, that someone else has control of our happiness. The reality is, that if we get the 'ingredients' right for happiness, then nothing can stop us from being happy, even in difficult times. It's our choice.

A great religious leader of our times (the Dalai Lama) has a different focus on happiness when he states that true happiness is found in kindness and compassion. He goes on to say that genuine happiness comes when you see some usefulness in your life. These qualities are not things you can hold or see, but they make you feel good, and they certainly leave lasting impressions on other people.

In order to provide our children with the skills to pursue happiness here are some suggestions. Show by your example, encourage, or teach your child:

- That happiness is a choice, so choose it
- To be happy with themselves - their gifts and talents, as well as limitations
- To work towards self- improvement but not at another's expense
- To be kind to themselves, and to others
- That no matter what they pursue it is important to do their best (whether at home, school, work or in the community)
- To laugh as often as is possible
- To care for others, and to look out for others, and if they see something unjust then do something about it
- To do good deeds for others – it will make them feel good too.
- To be grateful for what they have (envy creates discontent)
- To greet the new day with a smile and be glad to be alive to enjoy it

Happiness is not just about meeting our own needs. We are social beings. The more we connect with others and consider others the easier will be our own pursuit of happiness.



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Chaplaincy News: Last Friday, we had our first 'Chappies Brekky'. It was a great morning where kids, parents and teachers were able to enjoy a hot sausage sizzle. It was a great end to Chaplaincy Week and I would like to thank everyone who came and had something to eat and to those who helped out on the day by serving and cooking. I couldn't have done it without you!

CHOCOLATE DRIVE STARTS TOMORROW

- FRIDAY 29TH MAY, CHOCOLATES WILL BE SENT HOME WITH THE YOUNGEST IN EACH FAMILY
- We mentioned in previous newsletters to let us know if you did not want to receive chocolates, if you haven't replied would you please give Judy or Jeanita a call ASAP Friday morning. You may like to donate the profit of \$29 we make on each box!

The Chocolates are \$1.20 each, 48 in each box, total \$57.60 per box. Return by 19th June please.

- Parents are encouraged to return money ASAP once the chocolates are sold.
- If you are having trouble selling your box please return money and unsold chocolates ASAP so other families can take them.
- Please put money into the BLACK P&C BOX in the Office foyer. YOUR NAME MUST BE ON THE ENVELOPE .
- All chocolates must be returned by Friday 19th June to go into the draw to win a BIKE!
- So everybody gets a chance – good luck! The prize will be drawn on parade once all money is returned.



BOOKCLUB

Hi, the next issue of Bookclub will be handed out today with the Newsletters. The items in this issue cover a wide range of reading levels and interests. If you would like to place an order, please return the completed order form and money, in a sealed envelope, to the Library by the - **Closing date-Friday the 5th June 2009.**

You may pay by cash, cheque (made out to Brighton State School) or credit card. If you are paying by cheque or credit card please combine your orders and make one payment for the total amount.

After closing date we will collate the orders and forward them to Scholastic. Orders are returned to the school approximately 1 week after the closing date and then distributed to the students.



JUSTYNE'S FRIDAY SPECIAL

Italian Meatballs with pasta & tomato sauce - \$5
- YUMMY!

TUCKSHOP DAYS - MONDAY, WEDNESDAY & FRIDAY



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Community News

Kids Holiday Club - "SonWorld Adventure Park" is on this Winter Holidays. Come along to Bracken Ridge Baptist Church from 9am till 3pm on Tuesday June 30, Wednesday July 1 and Thursday July 2. All children from Prep to Year 7 are welcome. There'll be games, drama, songs, sports, electives, the famous Physical Challenge and even a Jumping Castle! Cost: \$10 per day or \$25 for all three days. Prices include morning tea. For all enquiries ring 3261 5045.